

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
July 31, 2024

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

Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays: The Spirituality of By-Laws?!

Who would think that I would do a reflection on our Parish By-Laws? Our By-Laws, together with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of West Virginia, guide and direct us in our life together at Good Shepherd. I pray that all of these governing documents have been prepared prayerfully and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are uniquely Episcopalian, providing for substantial lay involvement in Church governance. So yes, our By-Laws do have a spiritual component.

In the Episcopal Church, unlike some other faith traditions, the clergy are not the sole arbiters of how things are decided. For example, you, the lay people of the congregation, elect Vestry members and Delegates to Convention. Your Vestry will ultimately elect the person to serve as your next Rector. Your Delegates to Convention elected Matthew Cowden to be your new Bishop several years ago. And just this summer, lay and clergy Deputies to the General Convention had to determine whether to approve the House of Bishops' election of Sean Rowe to serve as our next Presiding Bishop. Thanks be to God, they did.

One of the responsibilities of an Interim Rector is to review and make recommendations for updating parish procedures. Based on my experience in many parishes in multiple Dioceses and in conversation with the Senior Warden, I believe that the By-Laws of Good Shepherd need updating. But I couldn't wave a magic wand and put new By-Laws into effect. In consultation with me and the Senior Warden, the Vestry adopted revised By-Laws at our July meeting. And in keeping with the democratic nature of our polity (a fancy word that basically means our governing processes), you will get to vote on the By-Laws at our special congregational meeting during the 10:15 service on August 11.

Copies of the proposed revised By-Laws are available in the Welcome Center. The principal updates are as follows:

- Changes the current practice of having two annual meetings, one in November to elect Vestry members and Delegates to Convention, and a second meeting in January to present the budget. This cumbersome process is not provided for in the Diocesan Canons. There would now be one annual meeting in January of each year to have both the elections and budget presentation.

- Conforms the By-Laws to the current practice of permitting Vestry meetings and voting via Zoom when necessary and allows the Vestry to skip a monthly meeting when appropriate.
- Establishes a procedure for allowing Vestry action on emergency situations that cannot wait until the next scheduled Vestry meeting.
- Allows notice of meetings to be provided by email in addition to newsletter and bulletins.
- Conforms our By-Laws to Diocesan Canons by allowing those who meet all requirements of Vestry election to be 16 years of age and changes the term “People’s Warden” to “Junior Warden.”

We give thanks to God for the extensive lay involvement in the governance of the Episcopal Church. And I pray that you will vote to approve the new By-Laws on August 11.

Homeless Encampment Policy

The Vestry approved the following policy at its July meeting.

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd has a robust outreach ministry to the community including homeless persons. This ministry includes the donut ministry, food pantry, homeless bags, Last Sunday Supper, Adopted Families and other associated programs and endeavors. This ministry does not include and forbids persons to utilize our sacred grounds for overnight camping, group encampments, illegal drug use or any associated trespassing events.

In the event individuals are noted camping or conducting extended loitering on church property the following steps will be taken immediately:

- Parishioners, Head Start teachers and visitors will immediately notify church staff if trespassers are observed
- Staff will make a visual determination of the person (s) actions including signs of drug use and overall demeanor from a distance
- If it is determined the individual (s) appear to be approachable, ask them one time to leave and explain they are trespassing and can not sleep on our property under any circumstances at any time. Conduct this conversation a sufficient safe distance from them
- If they do not leave immediately following the verbal warning, become combative or staff doesn’t feel they are approachable, call the Parkersburg PD (see below) and have them removed immediately

Note: Individuals picking up donuts, receiving homeless bags or other assistance at the front door area during normal business hours are excluded.

Parkersburg Police Non-Emergency Number (304)424-8444

Shepherd’s Closet Rummage

The August sale will be this weekend, August 2nd and 3rd from 9 AM – 1 PM. We have a LOT of new items. If you have friends or family members who are ‘thrifters’, are looking for back to school items, or just need a few things, make sure they know about this sale



Jack Steers Interment

Jack Steers, a long-time former member of Good Shepherd who moved to Ft Myers in his retirement, died at the end of 2023. His ashes will be interred in the columbarium following the 10:15 AM service on Sunday August 11. Parishioners who knew Jack are welcome at this short service of Committal.

**Reading Camp! Wild and Wonderful Monday – Friday August 5-9
8:30 AM – 4 PM**



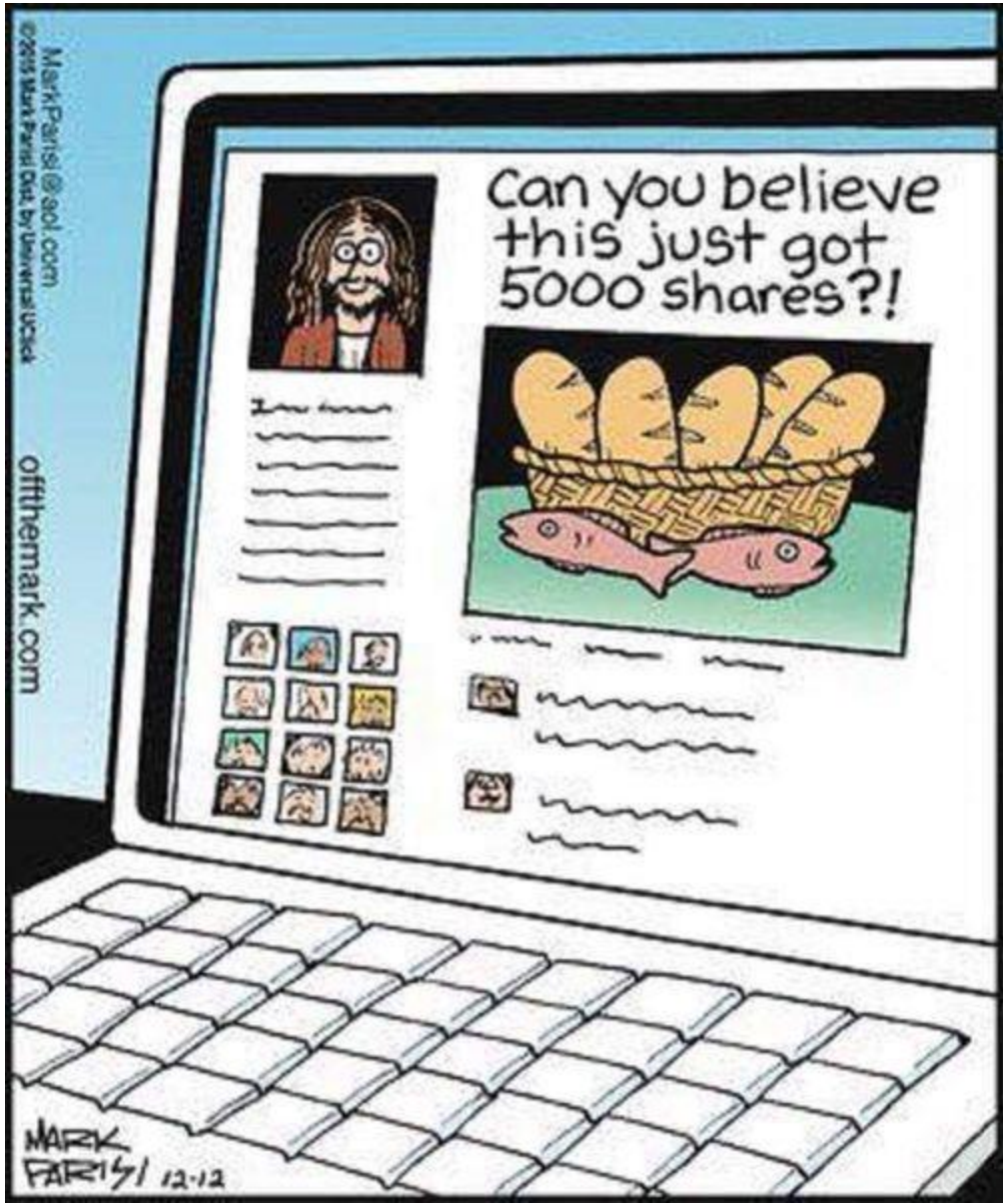
This is it! We are counting down the days until Reading Camp begins on Monday. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help. Many of us had a very productive meeting on Monday. There are still some things that we need help with:

- Adults or teens to be a group leader for a small group of kids – mornings and/or afternoons
- One or two extra adults on Monday afternoon to assist with activities led by others
- People who can spare an hour or more in the morning to listen to a child read.
- For crafts we need empty egg cartons – but **not** Styrofoam – any size
- Empty 2-liter soda bottles for bottle rockets

Call Linda for details. 304-210-5591.

Know a 1st-4th grader who needs reading help? Call the office or email Linda for an application.

Found on Facebook: Episcopalians on Facebook



New Phone System and more

In mid-July our archaic phone system developed serious problems. Please accept our apologies if you had trouble connecting with the office. Thank you to Dave Johnson and Tom Simpson who investigated the problem in the absence of the Jr Warden, found a solution and worked with the installers. We are now being served by CAS Cable and have an updated system with new phones and internet service. We also have new extension numbers which you will find listed in the contacts at the end of the newsletter.

Speaking of communications, the One Call service we use for important messages and the prayer chain has changed. Calls now appear to come from Good Shepherd (although they are actually coming from One Call). We were having problems with some calls not going consistently to all members and this was the proposed solution. However, if you need to re-listen to a message you need to call One Call directly at 1-877-698-3261. That should give you the option of listening to the most recent call. Please make a note of this number for future reference.

Accessible Parking

We have added additional handicapped parking spaces around Good Shepherd.

- Two HC spaces were striped on the Williams-Charles Street parking lot. In addition, that intersection was resurfaced by the City to eliminate the potholes and cracks and we added a crosswalk.
- One space was added on Charles Street, in front of the church, just ahead of the existing two spaces.
- Two more HC spaces were striped in the Latrobe-Charles parking lot
- One more space was added on the lower parking lot by the Rummage Room entrance.

On Sundays and for special services or events, please leave these extra spots available for those folks who need them! Thanks to the Semones and their MAM company for doing this work.



Altar Flowers:

Sunday August 4, 18 and 25 are available. Please contact the office to choose your date and to indicate if the flowers are in memory of someone or to honor a special person or event.



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers

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



Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza	Marcia Doyle – healing	Eric Dailey – healing
The People of Ukraine	Peggy Roberts - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Larry Hand—healing	Mary Gevas – healing	Heyward Roberts – healing
Becky Winans –healing	Dee Milhoan – healing	Shauna Hyde - healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Diane Cottrill – healing	Ann Stevens– healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	David Cottrill - healing	Mike Werry - healing
Colleen Parsons – strength/healing	Chris Heckman – healing	Vickie Dilley –healing/strength
Jason and Heather Smith difficulties from Muscular Dystrophy		



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces
Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	Steve Wilson	Sherry Shepler	John Stevens
Judy McCoy	Paul Rutledge	David White	Alana Dailey
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Chris Angotti	Julia Lee



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 each week.



- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read.

We still need books for children and teens!

Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for us too.



- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – Pulled pork, seasoned mixed vegetables, applesauce and strudel cake were enjoyed on July 28. The next meal will be August 25. Come help set-up and cook beginning at 1 PM or come help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until 6/6:15 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 the bags, the current 'holes' are Monday and Thursday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We also occasionally need help when our regular volunteers are not available. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed.



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 of our congregation.

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. If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact The Rev. Lou Hays, Larry James, or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Lou will be available on most Sundays, some Wednesdays and Thursdays and at other times for emergency needs. 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.



Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 4	louisbhays@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
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net