



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

October 14, 2020

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:

It is hard to believe that the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th, I will have served Christ here at Good Shepherd for 10 years. Over a year and a half ago the vestry formed a sabbatical committee to plan a clergy sabbatical and obtain funding for it. This past week we received word that we have been awarded a grant from the Lilly Foundation for a sabbatical to occur in the summer of 2021. I will use this time for rest and reflection, prayer and study, re-connecting with my family and friends, and visiting parishes in England to learn more about their successful evangelism ministries. Though in different sized cities, these churches are in similar settings to Good Shepherd.

I want to thank our Senior Warden, Larry James, and the other members of the Sabbatical Committee who worked so very hard to put the grant application together—Josie Wildi, Hal Foss, Toni Devore, and Linda Crocker. They worked many, many hours to write a great proposal for us. We'll share more details as we move closer to that time. COVID might possibly delay some of our plans.

It's a beautiful time of the year. We've been trying to plan an in-person service outside, but every time we schedule it and promote it, God sends us rain (which we do need). As of today, Wednesday, the weather forecast is for good weather this Sunday, October 18th. The benefits of being able to worship outside at the 10:15 service are: 1) there is no numerical limit, and 2) we can sing! (however, with masks on). Please expect a phone call from our One Call system by Friday, or check the church's Facebook page to make sure. Please try to come if we go ahead with this service outside. We have folding chairs available for you to use.



Carolynne Cooper and I will be taking some of our children and youth on a Holy Hike this Saturday at McDonough Wildlife Reserve in Vienna. We will hike, have a Sunday school lesson, worship and eat lunch together. This once a month format is taking the place of Sunday school for us right now. Please keep us in your prayers on Saturday.

Pet Blessing

Mother Marjorie enjoyed blessing a few of our congregation's pets on October 4th.

Eva and Brady



Ginger and Lola



Faith-Filled Generosity

The gospel reading for Sunday has the Pharisees trying to trip up Jesus. If Jesus supports the paying of the tax, his Jewish followers who are rebelling against the Roman occupation will shun him. If Jesus says it's unlawful to pay the tax, he'll be in trouble with the Roman authorities. What does Jesus do? He asks them to look at the coin. It is a Roman coin. Pay the tax – meaning give the Emperor back his own coin! Then Jesus adds that wonderful line — *give to God the things that are God's*.

What exactly IS God's? Well, we are! Our Christian faith in God points us to always live a life of gratitude and generosity. God showed us how we are to live and how to *give to God the things that are God's*: God gave us God's son, God's first fruit, and we are asked to do the same, remembering that everything we have, everything we do, everything we are, is a gift from God — and it is a gift that is meant to be shared. When we share from our first fruits, as God shared his own first fruit with us, we are modeling the same generosity God has shown us.

Remember, we have two 'triplet' ways of talking about being an Episcopalian. We say that what we believe is based on scripture, reason, and tradition and we say that we are stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. The first shapes our faith; the second is how we use the gifts we have been given to live out our faith. Here are two questions to help you reflect on your own Faith-Filled Generosity:

- *How does practicing your faith help you recognize all the gifts God has given you?*
- *How are you giving to God the things that are God's through your time, talent and your treasure?*



This Stewardship Moment is based on a reflection by The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce who is the Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Los Angeles.

A Season of Prayer: For an Election

Forward Movement and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations are calling Episcopalians and all others to join in A Season of Prayer: For an Election. This prayer novena—nine days of devotional prayers—calls upon God for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation. The season of prayer begins Tuesday, October 27, and continues through November 4, the day after the elections in the United States.



In a short video message (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75XaRgZI7j4&feature=youtu.be>), Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encourages Episcopalians to join the initiative to pray for our nation, its people and leaders, and all the nations and people of the earth.

“Through the ministry of RenewalWorks, we’ve found that one of the marks of vital congregations is that they pastor the community. By that we mean they are engaged with the world beyond the walls of the church, present to the neighborhood, primed to serve,” said the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, director of [RenewalWorks](#), a ministry of Forward Movement. “In this election season, we carry out that important ministry with our prayers, making the commitment through personal spiritual practice to be present to our nation in this critical time, asking for God’s grace for decisions made, thanking God for the grace that we can participate in this way in our common life, and trusting that grace will help us through. First, we pray. Then we vote.”

All prayers come from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and materials include a brief litany and daily prayer. The litany and daily prayers are available here:

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Promotions/PDF/ASeasonofPrayer2020.pdf>.

We also have some printed copies at church or you can follow <https://www.facebook.com/forwarddaybyday> daily during those nine days beginning Oct. 27. Let us use these resources to center ourselves on God as we move through these last days of a very contentious election season.

Children and Youth Ministry News

Mother Marjorie and Carolynne Cooper plan to take our kids for an outing at McDonough Park in Vienna on Saturday, October 17. Carolynne is also going to be working with the kids on a play to be presented on October 25, in lieu of the sermon at the 10:15 service.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage News:



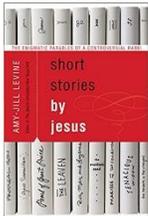
The last sale for 2020 will be Friday and Saturday, November 6-7. Call Deb at 304-834-3734 to offer your help. If you have more donations (cold weather clothing, housewares, holiday items) please bring them in no later than Thursday October 29. The Rummage Room will be open only for Adopted Families in December.

Live Streaming Update

The new sound system is in use at the 8 AM service. We have received the other equipment we ordered. Now we just need to get things set up and tested so we can eliminate Mother Marjorie's phone and tripod and livestream using the new camera in conjunction with the new sound system. Thank you to everyone for their donations and to Dave Johnson, the rest of the Thursday work crew, and advisor Curtis Modesett for all the time and effort they have put in - changing our hopes into a practical solution.



Book Group:



Several of us began our next selection: *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables by a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine on Sunday. We had a lively discussion and that was just about the introduction! If you think you know everything there is to know about all the parables, Ms. Levine has other ideas. Sunday the 18th we will discuss Chapter 1. The book is available as a paperback or as a Kindle edition on Amazon or from Cokesbury: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Short-Stories-by-Jesus-1>. Please order your own book (be sure to get the normal edition, not the participant guide) or call Linda Crocker (304-210-5591) if you need to have her order one for you. Contact Bob Crocker (crocker100@live.com or 304-893-2591) to join the Zoom session.

Altar Flowers



The following dates in 2020 are still available:

November 8 and December 27

Contact Ginger (304-428-1525, ext. 10) to request a date to honor or remember a loved one.



Mission Prayer Revision

We have been using the revised prayer for a few weeks. We haven't had many reactions – thumbs up, thumbs down or ideas for improvement. Please call, write, or email the office with your thoughts about continuing to use it. Ginger's email is gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com

Staying Connected

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Due to the governor's order you must wear a mask when visiting the office. If you arrive here without one, just let us know when you buzz to come in and we will bring one to you. If you need us outside office hours, contact Mother Marjorie, Linda, or Larry at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). It remains important for us to stay connected to one another. We are praying for you, your families, and friends, and for Good Shepherd.



♥ 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 of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



♥ **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

Connie Sutton –healing	Edwin Cottongim – hospice	Amanda Morris – healing, strength
Mary Gevas—healing	Peter Gevas—healing	Rev. David Cyphers - healing
Ayden Shaffer - healing	Carol Lathrop—healing	Gordon Chamblin – healing & strength
Frank Bono—healing	Ann Stevens—healing	John Davis – healing of back
Vickie Dilley—healing & strength	Diane Cottrill – healing	Jone Johnson—healing of eye
Dean Parsons—strength & healing	Donna Kapron - healing	Mac Moore – facing heart surgery
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – strength & healing		



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Hannah Slusher	Noah Estes	Sterling Slusher	Donovan Burns
Lauren Fielder	Dayne Hess	John R Davis Jr	Jed Harris



Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	Sharon Burnside	David Friend	Vicky Wilson	Samantha
Dylan Burton	Patty	Steve Meadows	Dale Haught	Ed Davis
Joe Moore	Lisa Grimm	Dennis Cox	Billie	Daisy McBride
George	Rain	Keith	Tessa	Larry Seevers
Tammy Reynolds	Hazen	Linda Bavousett	Deb Tuttle	Judy Conkle
Matthew Jacobs	Ray Kidder	Jim Sheets		



We also pray for all our community’s medical workers, first responders, grocery and drug store workers, shelter and pantry workers, delivery workers, correctional officers and all others in harm’s way while making sure our community continues to function and meet our needs as we await a safe, effective COVID vaccine .

Outreach Programs

♥ **Food Pantry**

Numbers are going back up. We continue to see lots of homeless people. Thank you to everyone who has made a special donation to keep us funded and thank you to all our volunteers.



♥ **Donuts**

We continue to make them available to our neighbors and the homeless.



♥ **Adopted Families Christmas**



Plans are already underway for this year’s program. Applications are out and a few are already back. Most of this year’s shopping will be done online. Clients are asked to give us their gift requests. After we have shopped, we will bag up the gifts for each family and arrange a pick-up time. We plan to include everything we gave before (hats, gloves, undies, socks, books, toiletries, etc.) except for the cookies. We hope that next year we can resume using the choir room as a store so families can make their own choices. If you would like to help this year with the shopping or just to meet needs as they arise, contact John or Carol Lathrop (304-863-3531). If you can make a monetary contribution that will also be most welcome.

Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, share a (virtual) 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 or call:

Dennis Armstrong: Ohio Valley Healthcare, Room 309, 222 Nicolette Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104

Bob Flinn: Wyngate Senior Living, 1 Wyngate Way, Parkersburg, WV 26105 **304-480-2834**

Deb Tuttle: Arcadia Valley Nursing Home, 25675 Main St. Coolville, OH 45723

At home:

Michael James: 235 S. Campus Drive, Apt. 209, Parkersburg, WV 26105



Meals:

We are collecting soups, casseroles and desserts at church that can be frozen and delivered to some of our members who are isolating themselves at home or are recuperating from surgery. If you would like to help, contact Sally Harris (304-679-3811) to find out what we currently need. If you need a meal, please contact the office.

Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

October 14 and every Wednesday– Evening Prayer on Facebook at 4

October 17 – EYF Outing

October 18 and every Sunday - 8:00 AM service **in church**; 10:15 AM service with hymns **online only**

October 25 – Children’s Drama online at 10:15 AM

October 31 – Change your clocks (Fall Back)

November 1 – All Saints Sunday

November 6-7 – Rummage Sale

November 15 – Annual Meeting to elect new vestry members (3) and diocesan convention delegates (6)

Support Good Shepherd When You Shop!

Amazon Smile: Go to smile.amazon.com and register your support for The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd. Return there to shop (at the same prices as the normal site) and a percentage of your spending comes back to the church.



Kroger Rewards:



This is a lucrative source of funds for our food pantry (usually over \$200 each quarter). It costs you nothing except a few minutes to register your Kroger Rewards card on the Kroger site. You will still earn your own fuel rewards. Please sign up at www.kroger.com/communityrewards or ask and we'll help you. Good Shepherd is organization number PN457. You can shop anywhere in Kroger's mid-Atlantic region, including Parkersburg, Belpre and Marietta.

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

Larry James, Senior Warden 304-482-9661

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blesense@suddenlink.net

**We have already had several surveys returned with helpful comments and suggestions.
If we don't have yours, please return it this week. Thank You!**

Good Shepherd Communication Survey

The church staff tries hard to make sure you have all the information you need to be up to date on everything that is happening in our church, with our members and with our ministries. This is your chance to let us know if you are satisfied or if there are specific things we could do to improve. Please circle your answers/fill in the blanks.

- The Staff newsletter
 - How do you receive it normally? Email? Postal Mail? Pick up at church? Don't get it
 - How often do you read it? Always Usually Once in a while Hardly ever
 - What articles/sections do you like best? _____
 - What else would you like to see or have more of? _____
 - Any other comments? _____
- ♥ Facebook
 - Do you have a Facebook account? Yes No Yes but I don't use it
 - If yes, how often are you on Facebook? Daily A couple times a week Occasionally
 - Do you get updates on our church page? Yes No
 - If yes, what do you think of our posts? _____
- ♥ One Call (used for prayer chain, urgent church messages, event reminders)
 - Overall: Valuable Helpful Not that important to me
 - Does your phone recognize the call as coming from the church/OneCall? Yes No I need help
 - Any comments, suggestions: _____
- Online Service
 - Have you watched any of our online services? Yes No
 - If Yes, what do you like, dislike, want improved? _____
 - If No, why? Can't access Prefer another online service Not interested
 - Other comments? _____
- Zoom (used for online meetings)
 - Have you participated in a Zoom meeting? Church meeting Other group Family None
 - Are you interested in more Zoom offerings (Bible Study, other adult group, other idea – specify)

- Any other comments about the ways we communicate with you? (emails, telephoning the office, service bulletins, calls to/from the staff, other)