

Epiphany



Continues

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
January 22, 2025

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

Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/827941253965688/search/?q=candlemas>
The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple is also sometimes called Candlemas. This description is from Wikipedia:
On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and some mainline Protestant denominations including Lutherans, Anglicans and Methodists) take their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.



Read the complete entry about Candlemas here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemas>

Annual Meeting: January 26

We will have one service on Jan. 26 at 10:15 AM, followed by our first annual meeting under our revised by-laws. Instead of 2 meetings each year we will just have this one in January. We will elect members to the Vestry, delegates to the next diocesan convention, and have a presentation on the 2025 church budget. See you there!



Candidates for Vestry (elect 3 for 3-year terms):

Toni DeVore

Tom Simpson

Brian Switzer

Candidates for Diocesan Convention Delegates (we elect 2 plus 2 alternates)

Greg Cigal

Carolynne Cooper

Bob Crocker

Karen Miller

Read the candidates' bios at the end of this newsletter

Candlemas and Chili – Feb. 2

On Sunday February 2 we will celebrate Candlemas (the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) at our 8 AM and 10:15 AM services. The church will be decorated with extra candles and there will be special readings and prayers. Katie Beth is also interested in blessing any candles you may bring in for your use at home. The candles may be new or used. If they are scented they need to have a lid or be otherwise enclosed) to prevent any allergic reactions.

We will have our postponed chili cook-off after the 10:15 service at 11:30 or so. Please plan to pick your favorite during the tasting period and then stay to eat a bowl for your lunch. Thank you in advance to all our chili chefs.

Serving the Hungry and Homeless in the Cold Snap

As you may have heard or read, multiple agencies have responded to help the homeless population survive the challenges of the recent cold and snowy wintry conditions. Here at Good Shepherd, we have continued to provide donuts and bags of food, including remaining open on MLK Jr Day. We are also making a hot drink available when it is really cold. This week we have added a hot bowl of soup. We also have socks, scarves and hand warmers available. **Donations of hats and gloves would be welcome.** Thanks to Joe Smith for providing soup, to Brian Switzer for bringing in socks, scarves and hand warmers, to Amber Hickman for crocheted scarves and to all our volunteers greeting and serving our visitors. While it is warmer in the hallway than outside, it is still a chilly place.

Our food pantry has also been busy with families needing help with food and that is likely to continue as housed people face large utility bills in the months ahead, cutting into their limited resources. Families with kids also feel the pinch when school is cancelled. See the article below for another way to help.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage



January and February are a time of sorting and reorganizing in preparation for the next sale on the first weekend of March. If you would like to help or have questions about donations, call Deb's cell (1-518-637-1734).

Altar Flowers:



February 2, 9, 23, and March 2 are still available. We will not have flowers on the altar during Lent which begins on March 5th. You can have a small vase of flowers placed in the Columbarium on any Sunday. 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.

Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 9

February 9th is the big game day (especially if you are a football fan) and it is also the day we continue our tradition of collecting food items for the food pantry (hence **Souper** Bowl Sunday). Please watch for sales at your local grocery store, and stock up on things so you can help fill our pink shopping carts. A list of needed items is below.

For the food pantry:

- Canned soup
- Ramen noodles
- Hamburg Helper, Knorr or store brand dinner ‘helpers’ for ground meat, tuna or chicken
- Cereal or oatmeal
- Pasta (elbow macaroni, rotini, ziti, penne, etc.)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Brownie or cake mix, frosting
- Pancake mix, syrup
- Pudding or jello mixes

For the homeless bags:

- case of individual bags of chips
- granola bars
- pb/cheese cracker packs
- packs of individual cereal boxes
- fruit cups
- vienna sausages
- case of water

We do not need peanut butter, canned beans, individual juice



Bible Study



Wednesday Bible Study groups led by David Cooper meet most Wednesdays. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 4:15 – 5:15 PM is studying the Letter to the Romans. The group meeting from 5:15 - 6:15 PM is studying 1st Samuel. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

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:



Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza
Marcia Doyle – healing
Mary Gevas – healing
The People of Ukraine
Peggy Roberts - healing
Forest Fire Victims and
Firefighters
Diane Cottrill – healing

Ann Stevens– healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength
David Cottrill - healing
Dee Milhoan – strength
Peter Gevas – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Heyward Roberts - healing
Amanda Morris – healing

Timothy Dotson – strength and
direction
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength
Amy Cooper – hospitalized, severe
pain
Jordan Farley & Channing – reunite
in custody/guidance

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

Those needing healing from cancer




Glen Kirk
Julia Lee
Marlene Cox
Ellis Corra

Judy McCoy
Alana Dailey
David White
Chris Angotti

Doris Lowe
Gary Greer
David Nevins
Wendy Meridith

Hal Foss
Charles Sterchak
Desirae Ryske
John Stevens

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. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for anyone and everyone. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, January 26. 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 need is someone on Tuesday morning. We also need substitute helpers when someone is out of town or ill. 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 Larry James or Linda Crocker (see below for our contact information). Katie Beth now has a dedicated phone number for pastoral care emergencies for members of the congregation to use. If you would like to have that number, please call the office to obtain it. It will not be printed anywhere so that when Katie Beth gets a call, she knows it is from one of us and not from a non-member. 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. 

Calendar Dates

January 26 – Annual Meeting and Last Sunday Supper
February 2 – Candlemas and Chili Cook-Off
February 8 – Vestry Retreat
February 9 – Souper Bowl Sunday (Our annual canned goods collection for the food pantry)
February 15 – Installation of The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa as rector of Good Shepherd
March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 5 – Ash Wednesday
March 31 – Reception of Jim Offenberger as Episcopal church priest



2025 VESTRY NOMINEES

Toni DeVore

I began attending Good Shepherd when I was 8 years old. Sunday School, Junior Choir, and attending and then later helping at Bible School were my activities until I went away to college. After college and returning to Parkersburg I found my way back to Good Shepherd. As a young adult I wasn't involved a great deal until our extended family program was organized and I found myself in a "family" with Anne and Dave Kinney, the Ploeger and Howe families. Somewhere along the way my husband Joe entered the picture and we hosted the youth group, taught at Bible School, and Sunday School at different grades. At some point I was asked to run for vestry and have been a Vestry member several different times. I'm also a service assistant. I have attended the state and national Episcopal conventions and was an avid camper at Peterkin Family Camp. My latest church adventure was serving on the Discernment Committee.

Tom Simpson

I and my wife, Linda, have been members of Good Shepherd since 1976 (seems like yesterday). I am currently involved with our various food ministries, the Thursday Morning work crew, Adopted Families, and ushering. I have served on vestry several times in the past and am honored to be a candidate for another term.

Brian Switzer

I was raised in Aurora Ohio and grew up in the Catholic church while my father was a Lutheran. I attended Walsh Jesuit High School in Akron and earned a BSME from Ohio Northern University in Ada. I spent the last 25 years in the food industry, mostly industrial bakeries.

My wife, Patsi, and I recently relocated from Vancouver, Washington, where I attended the Church Of The Good Shepherd. I was Assistant Youth Ministry Leader, was on the Vestry, served as Senior Warden, lead the Maintenance Team Ministry, participated in hospitality and grounds keeping, and led a Newcomer's Class. Since joining this church in July, I have participated in the summer reading program, Thursday morning work crew, the Last Suppers and Choir.

I enjoy tutoring math at Neale Elementary, mountain biking, snowboarding, learning to play piano, hiking, and camping.

Good Shepherd Shield
On stained glass window in the narthex



2025 CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINEES

Greg Cigal

I am 77 and a lifelong Episcopalian.

Baptized 1947 at St. James Episcopal Church, Danbury, CT.

Confirmed 1960 Episcopal Church of Atonement, Westfield, MA by Bishop Rogers

Member of Trinity Church, Parkersburg from 1977-1994

Member of Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd 1994 – Present

I participate in Spring Clean-ups, Last Sunday Supper, church decorating, Little Free Library, Lector and Chalice.



Carolynne Cooper

My husband David and I have been members of Good Shepherd since 1991. I was confirmed here and we raised our children here. Most of my offerings over the years here at Good Shepherd involve working with kids; Sunday school, youth group, drama group, VBS. I have been on the vestry and within the last year, I was on the discernment committee. I help with Last Sunday Suppers, care bags for the homeless and filling food orders at times. Now I agree to try a new avenue and be a delegate if you all so choose.

Bob Crocker

I started my association with Good Shepherd in 1974 when first arriving in the area as a new employee of DuPont Washington Works. In 1978 we started our globe-hopping for DuPont by first transferring to Wilmington, DE, then relocating to Luxembourg, then Columbus, OH and finally Middlesbrough England. Since marrying into the Episcopal Church in 1970, I have joined several church choirs, taught Sunday School (focusing on the tweens), organized and led Bible Studies, graduated from EfM, led Youth programs, served twice on the vestry, been a lay reader, Eucharistic Minister and Deanery and Diocesan Representative. I was recently certified as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and can take communion to our remote parishioners. Since retiring from DuPont in 2011, Kuraray in 2017 and finally Pickering Associates, I've kept busy as Junior Warden, participating in the Thursday Morning Work Crew, maintaining the Washington Works Nature Trails, and raising our granddaughter, Eva. Linda and I have three children and seven grandchildren spread across the US from Oregon to Pennsylvania and New York City.

Karen Miller

I am a cradle Episcopalian born and raised in Rapid City, SD. I moved to Parkersburg from various locations across the US. My children and I first attended Good Shepherd on Palm Sunday 1991. I have been here ever since.

I have been a Sunday School teacher, played in the handbell choir, and helped with the Last Sunday Supper. Currently I am Altar Guild Director, sing in the choir and help with homeless bags.

I initially attended a convention with my husband who was a delegate from Trinity. I participated in the virtual convention as a delegate in 2020 and 2021. I also attended as a delegate in 2022 and 2024. Thank you for considering me as a delegate for 2025.

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
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net

One Call system 1-877-698-3261 This is the number to call if you need a message from the church repeated.