

Epiphany



Continues

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
February 5, 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

From the Rector:

“O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the king in his beauty. . . .” (BCP, p. 243)



Who doesn't love the image of glowing Jesus?! The words above come from the collect for the Feast of the Transfiguration. Officially celebrated on Aug. 6th, we encounter the same gospel story on the last Sunday after Epiphany. This year's gospel, Luke 9:28-43, tells us that Jesus' clothes became dazzling white, a cloud overshadowed those gathered, and a voice said, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!" It's another Epiphany—another glorious appearance or manifestation—of the Triune God. Recall that in the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the first Sunday after Epiphany, we have the presence of Jesus in the river, the presence of the Holy Spirit as a dove, and the presence of God the Father communicating: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." We see the Triune God revealing important information about Jesus, that Jesus is in fact both human and divine, that God loves him, and that God is pleased with him. We see a similar trend with the story of the Transfiguration, the gospel for the last Sunday of Epiphany. In a perfect bookend, we have the presence of Jesus on the mountain, the presence of the Holy Spirit as a cloud that descends, and the presence of God the Father communicating "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!" Once again, we understand the Triune God to be revealing important information about Jesus, that Jesus is both human and divine, and that he is the Messiah, the one we should be listening to, as we go about our lives of faith. There is more to unpack than this paragraph in the Shepherd's Staff can cover: the prophecy of the return of Elijah, the festival of booths, and other important parts of this story. But it is so fitting to end the season of following the light and life of Christ, with Jesus in dazzling white, lifted high in exultation. May we take hope in the fact that this light, the light of the Triune God, will never leave us nor forsake us. Amen.

Katie Beth+

Annual Meeting: January 26

Elected to the Vestry for 3-year terms:

Toni DeVore, Tom Simpson, Brian Switzer

Elected as Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Greg Cigal and Carolynne Cooper

Elected as Alternate Delegates: Bob Crocker and Karen Miller

Please keep the Vestry in your prayers during the Vestry retreat this Saturday.



Installation of Katie Beth as our Rector:

Everyone is encouraged to attend this important event in the life of our church next Saturday, February 15, at 11 AM. We will be welcoming Bishop Cowden, clergy from around the diocese and Katie Beth's family and friends as we celebrate her formal installation as our rector.

A reception will follow in the Great Hall.

Candlemas and Chili – Feb. 2

Congratulations to our Cook-Off winners: 1st place, Sally Harris and tied for 2nd, Yazmin Allander and Karen Miller. Thank you to all 10 chili chefs, those who contributed sides and desserts and drinks and everyone who helped with set-up, serving and clean-up.

The preceding Candlemas service was beautiful with the various candles, candelabras, procession, special prayers, and music. After an unusually harsh January, the light, warmth and joy were especially appreciated.

Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 9

The NFL Super Bowl is upon us - the day we continue our tradition of collecting food items for the food pantry (hence **Souper** Bowl Sunday). Please find sales at your local grocery store, and stock up on things so you can donate to 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, noodles, etc.*)
- * Spaghetti sauce
- * Canned vegetables (*corn, diced tomatoes, green beans, carrots – we have lots of peas*)
- * Canned fruit (*mandarin oranges, applesauce, pineapple, we have lots of peaches*)
- * Brownie or cake mix, frosting
- * Pancake mix, we have 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, pudding cups
- vienna sausages
- case of water

We do not need peanut butter, canned beans, juice at this time.

If carrying in bags of food is too much for you, we will be here to help. Alternatively, we will have envelopes for the food pantry in the Welcome Center if you prefer to make a cash or check donation.

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 23rd is 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.



Advocacy Training

Yesterday I attended an advocacy training event offered by Mountaineer Food Bank in Flatwoods with others working to combat hunger across the state. The informative session was led by MFB's lobbyist – her job is to keep the legislature aware of hunger issues. We learned how policy decisions are made, especially at the state level, and things we can do to keep all our elected officials informed about issues we care about. I will be kept informed about bills being considered at the state level that impact hunger. If you would like to help Good Shepherd be a voice that is heard so that legislators know the impact of the decisions they make, about hunger or other issues that impact us and our neighbors, please call me or catch me at coffee hour or in the office.



Linda Crocker

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
 Fire Victims and Firefighters
 Diane Cottrill – healing

Ann Stevens– healing
 Sheila Craven - 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 – peace, pain relief
 Jordan Farley & Channing – reunite in custody/guidance
 Andrea McKinney – surgery recovery

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

Deaths
 Don Henthorne

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, February 23. 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 to the unhoused or in the pantry, the current need is someone on Tuesday morning **and Wednesday mornings in February**. 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

February 8 – Vestry Retreat

February 9 – Souper Bowl Sunday (Our annual canned goods collection for the food pantry)

February 10 - Vestry

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

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.