The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter of the Church of the Good Shepherd - September 11, 2026

Parish Prayer List

David N., Jim C., Darlene, Kim G., Nekka S., Samuel, Ibrahim, The Rev. Canon Wadie Far, Mimy B., Beth R., Cynthia G., Carol B., Jim B., Chris Y., Amber B., Halsey VL., Jim R., Father John Paul Boyer, Oliver P., and Frank C.

If there is someone you would like us to pray for, please let the office know.

As we begin the search for our next Rector, please pray for our Vestry, Wardens, Father Mike, Mother Elizabeth, our next Rector, and for each other. God bless all of us.

****The Prayer List will be reset as of 10/1. All names will be removed. Please notify the office if you would like to keep someone on the prayer list after 10/1. Thank you.**

Transition/Day of Discovery

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for recommendations for search committee candidates. You can still respond by clicking **here** no later than 9/13. The vestry will review the recommendations at their meeting on 9/14.

The **Day of Discovery** is **Saturday 9/19/2026** starting at **11:30 AM** in Jewett Hall. All Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend to provide input into our identity, mission, future direction, and desired qualities in a new rector. Please think about what is important to you in terms of the future of our parish. The meeting should last about 3 ½ hours and lunch will be provided. We hope everyone will come and be a part of this important process.

Calendar

09/13 16th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Spoken)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

09/16 Wednesday
10 AM-2 PM Ken Perry Food Pantry
6:00 PM Eucharist with Music (note time change)

09/19 Saturday
11:30 AM Rector Search "Day of Discovery" - all parishioners encouraged to attend

09/20 17th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Spoken)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

*View the calendar of all events at goodshepherdbuffalo/calendar

Search Expenses

To demonstrate to the Diocese that we have the ability to pay search and relocation expenses, a donor has offered to match donations for that purpose at $.50 on every dollar for a maximum donation of $5,000. Please consider donating to this fund by putting "Search Exp" in the memo line of your check. If you have any questions, please speak with Pat Lalonde.

ConnectLife has recognized Good Shepherd for participation in mobile community blood drives. Thanks to Elaine Richau for spearheading this initiative. Here is the article from their newsletter:

Community Blood Donation

Blood Drive Sponsor Highlight: The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd has been working with ConnectLife for three years now and has collected **89 total units** of blood from their blood drives. Their donors like the fact that the blood collected stays local in their community.

*"Our neighbors said they really appreciate the convenience of donating **'right in my neighborhood'**. We say, 'It's easy to host a drive, there's great support from ConnectLife, and we love saving lives, one donation at a time.'"*

Strawberry Festival
June 19, 2027

Wednesday Evening Service

As of 9/2, the Wednesday evening service time will change to 6:00 PM. The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempesy-Sims officiates with music provided by Mark DiGiampaolo. Come as you are and join us for this uplifting contemporary service.

The service leaflets for Wednesday and Sunday services are published on the Good Shepherd web page under the "Members" menu.

Grounds Update

The church driveway will be sealed Thursday 9/17 and will be unavailable to vehicles Thursday and Friday.

After our lawn service company abruptly closed down, we were able to secure mowing and snow removal services from Percy's Lawn Care and Son.

Many thanks to Bev Barry and Debbie Wiesner for their recent efforts in beautifying our property - cleaning up gardens, planting perennials, edging walkways, and more!

Music Notes

The Music Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new Music Director! Gail Shepherd has been hired and will start with us in October. She has extensive background in choral music direction, and we were all very impressed with her audition. Gail is a Parkside neighbor as well! Onward Christian Soldiers!

Important Contact Information

Non-emergency messages can be sent to the office at officegoodshep@gmail.com or to Elaine Richau at wegmom54@aol.com or left on the answering machine in the office (716) 833-1151. For pastoral **emergency** calls (only) phone Elaine Richau at (716) 982-2890.

Non-emergency property messages should be left on the answering machine in the office, or sent to Dale Cich at dtcich@gmail.com. Property **emergency** calls (only) should be routed to Dale Cich (716) 353-0474.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers may be ordered for $100/ pair in memoriam, in thanksgiving or for any other desired occasion. Two or more people can also share the cost of the flowers if desired. To order flowers, please send your flower request (colors, flower types) to Elaine Richau at Wegmom54@aol.com. Your dedication for the service leaflet should be sent to officegoodshep@gmail.com. Payment should be made through the Sunday collection or mailed to the church. Please reference 'Altar Flowers' in the description.

Keep saving your 2026 Dash's receipts. We can also submit 2025 receipts, but any old receipts from 2024 or earlier are expired. For every $5,000 in receipts we submit, we earn $100. Even small purchases add up!

We are also still collecting aluminum pull tabs from soda, soup, and other cans to benefit Ronald McDonald House.

Submissions for the Newsletter should be sent to **nancy.cich@gmail.com** no later than 5 pm on Thursday for publication on Friday.

Please consider remembering Good Shepherd in your will. It is a wonderful way to continue your support of your parish into the future for generations.