



## Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Newsletter – May 14th, 2020

This is the first of what I hope will be a weekly update on what's going on in our parish. If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to me and I'll include it in our next issue. By the way, if you have a clever name and/or logo for our newsletter, we'd love to hear from you.

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### New Baby

Congratulations to Lovette and Michael Sie on the birth of their new baby boy, Israel Everette Sie, born on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Recall that when Fr. Michael celebrated Eucharist with us last October he announced that another addition to their family was on the way. And here he is, little brother to Margaret and Michael Jr.! Lovette, and baby Everette are doing well.



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### Birthdays

Here are Good Shepherd folks that share May birthdays: Luigi Peracchia (6 May), Kathleen Moorcones (14 May), Judy Refo Hall (27 May), and Martha Hayes (29 May).

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

If you know of any birthdays I've missed (or I've missed yours!), please let me know.

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### Facility Improvements

Though we've not been able to worship together in person since the onset of the pandemic, nevertheless, the last two months have seen much activity at our church as some long needed improvements have been undertaken and completed. In the sanctuary the water damaged wall has been repaired and the unused chimney casing removed. Remarkable how much space that seems to add. And on the outside, rotten wood and broken glass has been replaced, and all walls and windows given two fresh coats of paint after much needed scraping and power washing. Much of this work was made possible by last year's picnic fundraiser and a generous \$10,000 grant from the Scott Foundation.



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## Giving

While we have not been able to gather, we still have ongoing bills that need to be paid... utilities, insurance, lawn care, cleaning, and partial compensation for our staff, etc. If you are able, please consider making a one-time or ongoing gift to Good Shepherd.

Pledge checks or donations may be sent to P.O. Box 324, Bluemont, VA. 20135.

You may also give online, thanks to our Diocese of Virginia, which has created a secure link to receive offerings for individual congregations. Go to [TheDiocese.net](http://TheDiocese.net) for more information.

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## In Person vs. Online Gatherings

As Judy shared in an email to the Vestry earlier this week, following receipt of an email from the Diocese of Virginia titled [A Message Regarding Phased Re-Gathering in Our Church Buildings](#), "Bishop Goff is going to be very cautious about opening the churches for services." They have formed four task force committees and "are still trying to figure out what in person services would even look like."

That being said, we will continue to meet via Zoom for the rest of May into mid-June, at least. We are looking into expanding our capabilities for online worship and would like to incorporate music and a homily if we can figure it out. If you'd like to read or sing or give a talk, or help with the technology, please let us know.

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## Fr. Ralph Sermons

Father Ralph has been writing sermons for every Sunday since the pandemic began. His latest, written for Mother's Day, as well as all his Easter and Lenten offerings can be found on our website, at [www.goodshepherdbluemont.com](http://www.goodshepherdbluemont.com) under News > Sermons.

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## Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10am – Virtual Morning Prayer

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 10am – Virtual Morning Prayer

Would you like to try to join us? Please call Judy Hall at 540-454-2148 to talk about how we can help get you connected.

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## A prayer for the Future of the Human Race (from The Book of Common Prayer)

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 27 Good Shepherd Road, Bluemont, VA  
(in Pine Grove, just west of Snickers Gap and north of Route 7)

[www.goodshepherdbluemont.com](http://www.goodshepherdbluemont.com)

*May God bless you and keep you!*

