



The Shepherd's Voice

February 2018

Services

Sunday:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
Rite I (Nursery available)

9:15 am Adult Spiritual Formation (Nursery available)

10:45 am Holy Eucharist
Rite II (Nursery available)

10:45 am Children's Church (Children go directly to Children's Church)

Tuesday:

7:00 pm Healing with Soaking Prayer

Wednesday:

Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove
Rector

The Rev. George Choyce
Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Turner Guidry
Deacon



February 13, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Don't miss it. Real from scratch buttermilk pancakes (a special recipe made with fresh eggs, buttermilk, butter, special flour). Also, local Bitter Creek Extra Lean Handmade Sausage, warm maple syrup, apple sauce, apple or orange juice, great coffee and tea. Gluten Free Pancakes on request.

Brought to you by the young men of the Order of Saint George with help from the parish, family and friends.

All proceeds will go to children and youth ministries. Cost is \$ 6.00 for age 12 and older and \$3.00 for 11 and under. Tickets on sale in the Parish Hall on Sunday Feb. 11 and at the door.

Invite your neighbors and friends for a simple but great meal served by our youth. Best pancakes in Western North Carolina and North Georgia. The secret is in the special flour.

Oh, and by the way – this is Valentine Eve – so bring that special person for early Valentine dinner.

Easter Cantata

We will be performing an Easter Cantata on April 7 at 7:00 pm. A small reception will follow the Cantata in the Parish Hall. We will also be using this performance to raise donations for the H.A.V.E.N. and a kick-off for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The reason it will be the Saturday after Easter is due to so many things also happening at Good Shepherd during Holy Week. This will give us a great

opportunity to have a greater attendance from the community. Besides, Easter is not just a one day occurrence, it is a celebration of who we are as Christians, e.g. hopeful, grateful and blessed.

Keith Christensen,
Director of Music and Pastoral Care Services.

The Shepherd's Voice

Christian Education

Ongoing

- **Lectionary Bible Study** meets in the Library downstairs. Join us each Sunday at 9:15 as we work through the appointed readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome.

Lenten Supper Series 2018

Sundays in Lent at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Our evenings begin with a simple supper of soup and salad. Please see the sign up sheets in the hallway to volunteer food for an evening or in other ways.

- **A Face Set Toward Jerusalem: The Passion of Christ and Traditions of Lent and Holy Week**

In this course we will examine the traditions of Lent and Holy Week - their origins, elements, and meanings - that developed around the life and death of Jesus as he set his face toward Jerusalem. This course is led by Fr Bill.

February 18 — Ash Wednesday and Lent

February 25 — Palm Sunday

March 4 — Maundy Thursday

March 11 — Good Friday

March 18 — The Great Vigil of Easter

- **A Journey Further into Narnia and Middle-earth** — This Lenten offering will take us on a spiritual journey into the world of Narnia created by C. S. Lewis and Middle-earth created by J. R. R. Tolkien. These imaginative novels of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as well as *The Lord of the Rings* can be read on many levels – from creative stories to scholastic gospel parallels. All are invited to come and participate in what promises to be a lively discussion as we leave Hayesville for an hour and journey

together into these two timeless worlds. This Lenten offering will be led by The Rev. George Choyce.

Upcoming

- **Book Study – Practicing the Sacred Art of Listening**, A six week book study beginning Sunday, February 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the Undercroft. Facilitated by Dr. Carol Smucker. Come join the conversation on ways to use your listening skills that will enrich your relationships and kindle your spiritual life. Each week we will discuss selected chapters from Kay Lindahl's book (*Practicing the Sacred Art of Listening*) and use our listening skills in class. Topics will include: What is Listening?; Reflective Listening; Heart Listening; and the Impact of Listening. Listening is the heart of the community. What better time to explore this simple yet profound act of listening to each other. Who knows what doors might open to connection, understanding, and transformation? Come and see! Books will be available for purchase for \$5. Please sign up so we know how many books to order.

- **Rector's Brown Bag Book Read – The Ragamuffin Gospel** by Brennan Manning on Tuesday, February 20 at noon. Most of us believe in God's grace—in theory. But somehow we can't seem to apply it in our daily lives. We continue to see Him as a small-minded bookkeeper, tallying our failures and successes on a score sheet. Yet God give us His grace, willingly, no matter what we've done. We come to Him as ragamuffins—dirty, bedraggled, and beat-up. And when we sit at His feet, He smiles upon us, the chosen objects of His "furious love." Brennan Manning's now-classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it—simple honesty—has changed thousands of lives.

Shrove Tuesday Burning of the Palms and Imposition of Ashes

You are invited to bring and drop off in the marked basket in the narthex yours palms from 2017 Palm Sunday. Those will be burned on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, and used on Ash Wednesday. Any not

be able to attend the Ash Wednesday service are invited to receive ashes Tuesday evening following the annual pancake supper.

The Spiritual Life

Every Ash Wednesday, we hear Jesus speak from scripture saying “whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Your Father who is in secret will reward you. As many will recall, Jesus is speaking to his disciples about proper disposition and warns them to not be like those who pray in order to be seen and esteemed as holy by onlookers. There is also an important practical matter being addressed, one that may be especially important to our busy minds. Apparently even in Jesus’ day, people’s minds wandered, so the suggestion to go into a secluded yet familiar place and shut out the world was likely helpful. I would not be surprised if Jesus’ home had a prayer closet - a place set aside for prayer.

This much has made sense to me for quite some time, and I have found the secluded space helpful. But I have wondered about what he meant by “your Father who is in secret” and “who sees you in secret will reward you.” Recently, I have been reading a book titled *Inwardly Digest* by Derek Olsen. Its subtitle gives away the subject matter - *The Prayer Book as a Guide to a Spiritual Life*. Olsen argues that the liturgies of the prayer book along with the calendar of readings and feasts and fast, offer a means of spiritual growth that often happens without much notice that any change is happening. Slowly, over time, faithful adherence to praying the ritual liturgies of the Prayer Book shapes the spirit in ways that can usually only be seen over a long period. Something happens as if in secret. Deepening spirituality requires commitment to prayer even when one does not feel like it and when one feels like it is doing no good. But pray we should, noting that Jesus does not say “if you get around to pray...” but assumes that you will pray saying “whenever you pray ...”

A few men of the parish joined me on retreat a week ago. We went to a monastery for time away in our secret closet and to participate in a series of conferences on the topic “Confidence in God.” We talked about many things and I would rate the experience as excellent. Brother Mark, the monk co-facilitating our conversations several times mentioned “God who works in secret.” It is a reference, to the inner life of the spirit and to what happens, often slowly and imperceptibly, when we come to God in prayer. I believe this long-term deepening of the spiritual life, a growing into Christlikeness, is the reward of the God who works in secret. And one of the wonderful things about this is that you should come as you are with all your hopes and dreams, all your hurts and failures, because your Father already sees and knows you, and who loves you as an only child, desires that you come as you are.



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. The faithful often use this season as an occasion to take on some discipline, such as giving up something to which they have developed an unhealthy attachment or taking on a spiritual practice. Some may find this Lent a time to establish or renew a commitment to prayer in secret. Your Father who loves you as an only child is waiting for you.

Grace and peace be yours,

Fr Bill+

The Shepherd's Voice

Moms' Connection

We all had a wonderful time at our Christmas Party in December!! Thank you to Santa and his Elf (Turner and Georgia) who captivated the children with music and love! We would like to extend an invitation to all moms and grandmothers of children aged 0-5 years, and pregnant women in our parish as well as the community, to join us this year for Moms' Connection. Our 2018 Kickoff will be on Friday February 16th from 10am -11:30am at the Church. If you are in need of relaxation, refreshment, a break from child care, and would like to meet other moms then please join us!! We have wonderful trained volunteers who love children and can care for them while you have quality time with other women you can relate to. We will also have some guest speakers and women-focused activities from time to time. We hope to have a fun summertime outing that we can share with the kids and we are in the planning stages for the year.

We are growing and are in need of volunteers for childcare and activities, preparing coffee, arranging snacks, helping with the Diaper Ministry, and other needs. Bring your gifts and talents!! Even if you can only volunteer once every other month or so, it would help! For more information call Susan Gray at 828-361-7175.



Financials (December 31, 2017)

2017 General Fund Balance:

Balance January 1, 2017	\$20,513
Income year to date	385,618
Expenses year to date	<u>-372,556</u>
General Fund Balance on November 30, 2017	33,575

Balance on bank mortgage \$143,198

Balance on Mt. of Faith loan \$21,00

The church's financial statements are posted each month on the bulletin board by the office door.

For any questions, please contact our church bookkeeper, Susan Wyman in the office on Mondays.

From Fr. George:

As I begin to write this article – perhaps more accurately this reflection – it is 44 degrees outside interspersed with patches of sunlight just barely breaking through a slight percentage of the clouds. It almost feels like the beach when linked to yesterday. Yesterday it was eight degrees and breezy. These combined conditions made my hands hurt as I drove to Good Shepherd early on that Sunday morning. That weather forecast in temperature was 100% accurate. Today's weather forecast of rainy throughout the day was way, way off; the icy road conditions have not happened, at least not yet. The Hayesville School System, along with quite a few businesses, were closed due to climate predictions that sometimes produce fear.

It seems that life puts us in a Catch-22 situation. It is almost as if you cannot venture out while similarly playing it safe, or you can venture out yet take a chance on living more on the edge: play it safe or play it chancy. Those seem to our choices. I have done both.

For instance, when I was at an extended and sad stretch in my recovery from seizures, I could hardly get outside at all due to driving privileges being taken away. It was a little "Sherlock Holmesish" to me, meaning that boredom is dangerous. You can only reflect so many times before you lose perspective. It was, however, safe.

On the other hand, once my driving privileges were restored when my seizures were back under control, I was out driving and rode over a seemingly invisible covering of black ice on Highway 64. My car turned around, but it did not turn over! It zigzagged backward into the middle drainage ditch of the grass highway divider, which was covered in six inches of snow. While it did take two full-sized pickup trucks to

pull me out, they did so within ten minutes of the spinout.

Where am I going with all of this? Well, faith is not safe. Period. To the Christian, faith is about following Jesus. And there is no telling where that will lead us. Faith is not, as some have simply claimed, about being successful or comfortable as signs of being faithful.



Throughout the Gospel texts Jesus calls out, in one form or another, "Come and follow me." Furthermore, in The Book of Common Prayer, our Baptismal Liturgy (for those who can answer for themselves) includes the question, *Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?* The response is *I do.* (BCP, p. 303) Additionally, in our liturgy for Confirmation, the Bishop asks, *Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?* We respond, *I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.* (BCP, p. 415)

The word *follow* has been boldfaced in both of our responses about our faith-filled response to Jesus. But it is like weather forecasts – they are not always predictable. Likewise, the weather is as changeable as breezy bitter cold and dry one day to calm, balmy and damp the very next. Similarly, it is unpredictable and changeable as to where following Jesus will lead us. Jesus will lead, nevertheless. Our promise is to follow ... no matter what the conditions.

The Shepherd's Voice

Turner Guidry Begins Serving on Lake Logan and Camp Henry Boards with Visions of Spiritual Growth and Healing for All

Good Shepherd Deacon Turner Guidry recently added serving on Lake Logan Conference Center's Board as well as the Board of Camp Henry to his already busy schedule. Both organizations are intricately connected and have a very special place in his heart.

"Lake Logan is one of the 'thin' places in the world," he says. "A place where heaven and earth touch, a place where God's grace flows with incredible measure." As Camp Henry is located at Lake Logan, both organizations benefit as he uses his love for each as a catalyst for spiritual and visible growth.

"I am drawn to the miraculous, where God surprises us with joy, hope and healing. I find that continuously at Lake Logan through their programs and especially in my ministry as chaplain for Camp Henry."

"I am a moth drawn irresistibly to God's flame. That flame burns brightly there. I couldn't not serve them both," Turner says.

He hopes that his increased service to Lake Logan will have beneficial effects for the Good Shepherd flock as well. There are many ties between the two, a bond. Good Shepherd was instrumental in the forming of Lake Logan Conference Center from the time when the Diocese purchased the property in 2001. Additionally, Clyde Taylor and Dave Larsen served on Lake Logan's Advisory Board during its early days, and Good Shepherd has supported Lake Logan financially since its inception.

Turner urges our congregation to increase participation in the wealth of Lake Logan's programs, continued and increased support of Camp Henry, and "graciously volunteering" to lend a hand in the upkeep and repairs of this Holy Place.

"In doing so, we, of Good Shepherd, may increasingly experience the 'thinness' and grace of Lake Logan. My dream is that Good Shepherd will increasingly step up, as the exemplary people we are, and invest our sweat and gifts towards sustaining this vital ministry."

What can the Good Shepherd congregation do? There is a list! The new Lake Logan Executive Director, Lauri Sojourner, has provided some items, and Turner is eager to bring a group of boys and men on a retreat which would include working on the needed upkeep. All are welcomed to help out.

Specific chores include cabin painting, rethinking historic cabins, cleaning out under lakeside cabins, landscaping, and cleaning out gutters. "It isn't very 'glam,' but it's a huge help," says Turner. There is also talk of creating a new meeting space.

Turner offers both boards great value by being a liaison between Camp Henry and the Conference Center. His roots in both organizations go back many years. He attended the first event at Lake Logan in 2002, and he has been involved as Chaplain with Camp Henry for the past 5 years.

One specific goal, beyond helping with the general upkeep of the Conference Center, is to "woo Healing Winds back to Lake Logan." This annual event outgrew Lake Logan and moved to Lake Junaluska several years ago. However, Turner believes this is a perfect time for a return to its original location. "I have seen, with my own eyes, the deep transformation of lives at Lake Logan through the ministry of this conference."

One such area where the miraculous has happened at Lake Logan frequently comes in the form of the Camp Henry children, many of whom come from troubled backgrounds. "I have seen children coming alive as never before with joy, play, and Godly sharing," Turner explains.

Other miraculous experiences involve angels. "I have seen angels over and over again at Lake Logan," Turner says. "They love that place!"

The spiritual benefits of participating in any of the many ways Lake Logan and Camp Henry have to offer the individual, groups, and the church are boundless.

"It is important to periodically retreat from the world," Turner says, "to get away from the too familiar, so that we can come closer to God and allow our strength and faith to be renewed. Lake Logan offers such a place, where God's sovereignty and love flow like a river."

Opportunities offered at Lake Logan Conference Center are regularly posted in the hall at Good Shepherd, and news of Camp Henry is regularly offered to our congregation.

Turner asks for us to join him in this ministry.

Parish News

Birthdays in February

- 1 Alice Hartman, Darry Wood
- 2 Edie Kleinpeter
- 6 Marjorie Hobkirk, Helene Merwin, Jack Wright
- 7 Bob Kirby
- 10 Suzi Herbert, David Field
- 11 Andy Dickert, Johnathan Notchie
- 12 Lois Ann Wentzel
- 14 Valla Kolman
- 15 Joh Breazeale
- 16 Angelica Patterson
- 18 Jenny Montgomery
- 19 Rachel Roberts
- 20 Frank Bradley
- 22 Barbara Brewton, Suzy Christensen, Rex Boswell
- 24 Kimberly Bourne
- 26 Adelaide Fullilove, Mike Gora
- 27 Sally Conaway
- 28 Betsi Wilson, Robert Schneider

Anniversaries in February

- 1 Gail and Birch Criss
- 14 Joy and Pat Fox
- 16 Lynn and Bob Kirby

Exciting Education Opportunities in 2018

The Adult Spiritual Formation Committee has lined up a diverse and exciting calendar for the first half of 2018. In addition to the offerings listed on page to put the following on your calendar:

Saturday, March 24 - 10:00 to noon - in the Parish Hall. **The Annual History Seminar** - Darry Wood will talk with us about the **Ancient Cherokee Indian** presence in our area during times prior to the Trail of Tears. Refreshments will be served. The seminar is open to the public, so help spread the word by asking a friend to come. There is no charge for this event.

Mondays, April 2 thru 30 - 5:30 pm - **The Jesus Fatwah** - Dr. Robert Schneider will be in the Library facilitating a video/discussion course. The program is written and produced by *Living the Questions*. This 5 week program explores the Muslim faith and pairs the conversation with the Christian faith. Dr. Schneider has lived and worked in 2 mostly Muslim countries and has personal knowledge of the subject matter. Classes will last about 1 hour. Sign up in the Hallway so enough copies of written materials are printed.

The "Big Picture" Bible: God's story and our story - Saturday, April 21 - 9 am - 4 pm - The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton tours churches offering his stimulating and joyful talk about God and includes us in

the Spring Tour. **The Bible** is his topic on April 21 in Good Shepherd's Parish Hall. This event will be offered at no charge. Delmer describes this as a "romp through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation". We ask for donations to assist with lunch expenses. Sign-up sheet in the Hallway for lunch count. Please save the date and plan to be there.

Sundays May 6 - June 10 - 9:15 am - "First Light" - Kathy Wright will be Facilitator. This is a *Living the Question* series production. John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg present a course about the time Jesus lived. The course covers daily living, economics, literacy, the politics of Rome, and much more. Borg and Crossan are internationally renown Jesus scholars with a wonderful ability to speak to us clearly of these times and issues. The class consists of a short video and discussion each week. Study materials will be provided. The entire program is 12 weeks. We will be doing the first six weeks now and balance of sessions in September after our summer break. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Hallway so we know how many copies of course materials to print.

It will be quite a year at Good Shepherd. Keep track of coming events and classes in the Hallway and bulletin. We have much to feed the mind and spirit scheduled this year. Come and see.

The Shepherd's Voice

Lectionary Readings

5 Epiphany	Last Epiphany	I Lent	2 Lent
February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Isaiah 40:21-31	2 Kings 2:1-12	Genesis 9:8-17	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 147:1-7	Psalm 50:1-6	Psalm 25:1-9	Psalm 22:22-30
I Corinthians 9:16-23	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	I Peter 3:18-22	Romans 4:13-25
Mark 1:29-39	Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15	Mark 8:31-38



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