



The Shepherd's Voice

January 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

Absentee Voting

The vestry election will take place on January 7 and 14 after both services. Request an absentee ballot through the church office. Absentee ballots must

arrive back in the church office by noon on January 12.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Early Warning. Easter comes early in 2018, April 1. This means Lent also comes early and Shrove Tuesday falls on February 13. Order of Saint George

will again provide the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. So here is your chance to take your Valentine out for great dinner a day early.

To make known His power to heal and grace to forgive

Our Sunday announcements always include an invitation to be prayed for in the side chapel, after communion, if you have a health issue or personal concern that is troubling you. Hearing this many parishioners may wonder just what is going on over there during healing prayer.

It is exactly that. Healing prayers offered in the simple act and Biblical tradition of the laying on of hands and praying for someone. In this case members of the Good Shepherd Healing Ministry ask about and then pray for the healing needs or concerns of those who come over for prayer after communion.

Through their prayers, they are invoking the Holy Spirit's healing power on someone's behalf. They pray that if it is God's will, then in His time and by

His command the things for which that person asks God's help, would be done for them in accordance with His will. Those who pray are not doing the healing, God does that part. Yes, it happens regularly, right here in our church, all the time. If you have a need or concern troubling you, bring it to God in this very humble yet powerful way by coming over for prayer.

It all starts with the question "what can we pray for" followed by the simple act of the laying on of hands and the calling upon of the Holy Spirit. He is always there with His power to heal and grace to forgive, waiting for us to ask for His help in Jesus' name. As those who pray carry on this Christian tradition of the laying on of hands in prayer, the amazing part has always been what actually happens after that healing prayer.

Christmas Care Thank You

Thanks to everyone who contributed a donation to the Hinton Christmas Care program this year. It was reported to us they were able to take 405 kids Christmas shopping at WalMart this year which is

significantly above the usual 250 of years past. Our generosity and all their fund raising efforts enabled the program to be both successful and "in the black" financially starting off for next Christmas.

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.

Upcoming

- **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.

⇒ ***Pastrix*** by Nadia Bolz-Weber on Tuesday, April 17 at noon
Heavily tattooed and loud-mouthed, Nadia, a former stand-

up comic, sure as hell didn't consider herself to be religious leader material—until the day she ended up leading a friend's funeral in a smoky downtown comedy club. Surrounded by fellow alcoholics, depressives, and cynics, she realized: These were her people. Maybe she was meant to be their pastor.

Using life stories—from living in a hopeful-but-haggard commune of slackers of surviving the wobbly chairs and war stories of a group of recovering alcoholics, from her unusual but undeniable spiritual calling to pastoring a notorious con artist—Nadia uses stunning narrative and poignant honesty to portray a woman who is both deeply faithful and deeply flawed, giving hope to the rest of us along the way.

Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this is the book for people who hunger for a bit of hope that doesn't come from vapid consumerism or navel-gazing; for women who talk too loud, and guys who love chick flicks; for the gay man who loves Jesus, and won't allow himself to be shunned by the church. In short, this book is for every thinking misfit suspicious of institutionalized religion, but who is still seeking transcendence and mystery.

Missing Pan

This type of pan is missing from the church kitchen, (maybe barrowed, and not returned.)

Please do not take cooking and serving items from the church kitchen or Parish Hall. Since completion of the new kitchen and Parish Hall we have had an expense of \$200 to \$400 a year in replacing broken (normal wear and tear) and stolen items.



Happy New Year

I am aware that many are reading this message before the New Year has begun, but maybe that is for the better. Maybe some will be reminded that something new is upon us and we wish and hope that the new thing will be a happy occasion. My thoughts this new year are about the years that have passed since coming to this wonderful parish - of all the holy things you have accomplished in and outside the church, of the praise and worship of a generous and loving God that I have seen in and through you, and the continuing hope I see expressed especially in those who have experienced significant challenges and losses over these years. In these thoughts, I recall the words of Paul who encouraged the faithful saying, "Beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

As was true of the early church and the days of the kings and prophets before the church, we live in a world that challenges us and threatens to overwhelm some of us. I am grateful for the love of God shown through his church and especially this parish. The church and its people are the embodiments of God's truth and honor and its ministries are the incarnation of God's justice and holiness. They are pleasing and commendable and excellent and worthy of praise, and importantly they keep us grounded in the love of God when chaos and darkness enter our lives. In this New Year, I am reminded that these are gifts of God for the people of God. They are freely given and for a people, people like you and me, children of God who are dear to his heart. It is a simple thought, but God wants to give us something. He just gave us his son at Christmas, yet God is not done giving. We know that, but I wonder if we have stopped receiving? Are there gifts God offers that we fail to receive because we have stopped expecting

to be surprised?

I was at our Tuesday soaking prayer service a few weeks ago and was gifted with a wonderful reflection on the presence of the Holy Spirit in this parish. These several weeks later that message is still inspiring my soul. I guess I needed to hear the Holy Spirit speak and maybe you do as well. I believe God is always offering gifts and I had to be there to receive that message I know was spoken to all, but I also know was meant just for me.



I pray that in this New Year all of us would think about the gifts of God that we may have left "unwrapped." Some may want to resolve this new year that they will not leave the gift of receiving Holy Communion unused. That gift is offered every Sunday and Wednesday. Some may want to start the new year with a renewed commitment to holy living through a formal act of reconciliation. Your priests are here for you. Some may resolve to seek the healing power of God by taking advantage of the intercessory prayers offered during Sunday worship and on Tuesday night. Your brothers and sisters in Christ are ready to pray for you. Others may want to recommit themselves to some form of discipleship, studying the Word of God and serving others in a renewed and intentional quest for the gift of holiness. May the light of Christ shine upon the path to the gifts you wish to receive and may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit lead you to greater gifts in this new year.

Fr Bill+

Financials (November 30, 2017)

2017 General Fund Balance:

Balance January 1, 2017	\$20,513
Income year to date	339,861
Expenses year to date	<u>-335,617</u>
General Fund Balance on November 30, 2017	\$24,757

Balance on bank mortgage \$144,457

Balance on Mt. of Faith loan \$21,500

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.

The Shepherd's Voice

Nominees for Vestry 2018

Voting for Vestry Members will take place on **January 7 and 14**

VOTER ELIGIBILITY as defined in Diocesan Canon 10.6:

"In electing a Vestry, any duly baptized person of the age 16 years or over who has contributed to the support of the church by subscription or otherwise for a period of at least six months prior to the election shall be eligible to vote."

Ballots will be available in the Narthex after the services to vote for **exactly four (4)** of the nominees below, who will each serve a 3-year term:



Name: Tom Griffiths

Family: My wife is Carolyn Cline-Griffiths and between us we have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 greats

Occupation: Retired from Hospital IT

Church History: Confirmed in 1980s, EFM graduate, chair of Outreach committee, Sunday School teacher, Vestry in both

Atlanta and WNC, Leader of Joyful Noise for 10 years, former Stephen Ministry leader and minister, Jamaican Mission trip and New Orleans mission trip. Currently serving as EM coordinator and hospital visitor and LEV.

Outside Activities and Hobbies: Bowling, motor biking, golf, woodworking and playing with grandchildren

Vision for Good Shepherd: My personal vision for Good Shepherd is continuing to be welcoming to ALL and expanding our ministry to care for the unfortunate and home-bound, but I hope and pray my vision and that of the church leadership would be in line with God's will for us.



Name: Millard Dudley Hall

Family: Bill Hall (son), Kelli Hall (daughter-in-law), Grace Hall (granddaughter), Natili Hall (granddaughter), Jennifer Phillips (daughter), Joe Phillips (son-in-law), Hank Phillips (grandson)

Occupation: Retired

Church History: Biltmore Methodist Church, Asheville, North Carolina – Baptized

Ministry Participation: Matt's Ministry, Meals on Wheels several years ago

Outside Activities and Hobbies: Fishing, Travel

Vision for Good Shepherd: I would like to see Good Shepherd continue in contributing to the surrounding community and be a place where we are helping our neighbors and our fellow parishioners as needs arise.



Name: Kathryn Hoyt

Family: Son Tyler and family in Atlanta and son Christopher in Waynesville. My two sisters and their extensive families live in St Louis. Family here includes Adelaide, her dog Misty, and my (perfect) cat Sochi.

Occupation: Social Worker. Started as case manager for chronically mentally ill adults. My passion was serving as a hospice counselor for ten years before moving to Hayesville in January 1999.

Church history: Raised (and baptized) Southern Baptist. Confirmed Episopalian in 1962. Joined Good Shepherd in 1999. Hired by The Rev Donald O'Malley in fall of 1999 as a pastoral care home visitor at Good Shepherd. Later my role expanded to include office duties and a variety of pastoral care duties. I was also trained and was active as a Stephen Ministry leader during that time. I retired in 2008.

I sang (for better or for worse) in the choir for several years. I absolutely love being on Altar Guild under the guidance of Pat Jordan, and I treasure serving as a Eucharistic Minister at the 10:45 service and on Wednesdays at the noon healing prayer service. I thoroughly enjoy being an office volunteer and a Eucharistic Visitor. I'm on the Bereavement Committee and prayer chain. And I have the honor and blessing of being a member-in-training of the Healing Prayer Ministry.

Outside activities and hobbies: being outdoors in nature, taking walks, meditating, reading and listening to inspiring literature and speakers. Traveling to Waynesville to granddog sit. Spending time with my boys.

Vision for Good Shepherd: I deeply love Good Shepherd and deeply respect the direction we are going to become ever more inclusive, loving and tolerant, and to ever expand our involvement and partnership with the community. I love the diversity of ministries and activities we have created for each other. I believe we are on the right track and I will prayerfully support decisions and innovations that expand Christ's call to be the light of the world. Because we are a healing place I can see our healing prayer ministry expanding to include being sent forth with our Eucharistic visitors and working alongside our hospital and nursing home visitors to bring their beautiful listening

hearts and healing prayers to more of our parish family.

**Name: Mary Anne Kooš**

Occupation: Past 3 1/2 years library assistant at Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville; previously 25 years with Mountain Home Nursing Service as medical records clerk.

Family: None locally, cousins and sister-in-law scattered across the country; surrogate family Episcopal Church of the

Good Shepherd.

Church History: I was christened Methodist and raised in non-denominational military chapels, and attended the local Episcopal churches in college and when working in Denver. I have attended Good Shepherd since 1981, began serving as a lector, and was confirmed and licensed as a lay reader and chalicerist in 1982. I served as lay reader leading morning prayer one Sunday a month for approximately fourteen years with the former mission in Andrews. I have served on the vestry of Good Shepherd for two terms. I helped start the choir and sang with it for about fifteen years, and rejoined the choir in 2015. I have been a member of the prayer shawl ministry since 2014, and have been assisting with organizing the church library the past two years.

Outside Activities and Hobbies: Reading, knitting, embroidery, baking, and cooking.

Vision for Good Shepherd: I would most like to see more families with children at Good Shepherd, realizing that this is a particular challenge due to the present demographics of Good Shepherd and its rural location. (But . . . in the '80s during the search for our first rector, we had 42 children in Sunday School for a while.) I have been personally supported through difficult times by the church, and am interested in ways to make that sort of help available to any who might need it. I have seen how such congregational gatherings as coffee hour, potlucks, and service projects (Country Fare, golf tournament, Punkin Chunkin) help promote a sense of family within the congregation. Given that most members of our congregation are imports to this area, with little or no local family, a sense of family within the church is greatly to be desired.

Cynthia L Nodine

Family: I was born in Spartanburg, S.C. where my mother currently resides along with my brother and his wife. I lived in the Atlanta metro area for 21 years with my mom and brother. I wanted to move back

to a small town and discovered Clay County while on a camping trip in Blairsville in 1998. My prayers were answered when I met Jan in Hayesville in 2011 and now we share our home and our hearts with our two fur babies Marsha and Bagel.

Occupation: I attended the University of Georgia in Athens, GA and local colleges in the Atlanta area. My area of study began in psychology but I later realized I needed to enter the work force sooner rather than later. I spent some time working in restaurants as I love to cook, and later became a facility manager for a major hospital supplier in Norcross, GA. I also owned and operated a cleaning and pet sitting business in Hayesville from 1998-2011. I am currently a seasonal employee with Cradle of Forestry of America Interpretive Association at Brasstown Bald where I am an associate in the gift shop.

Church History: I attended Baptist churches as a child at Boiling Springs First Baptist Church in SC as well as attending services at my uncle's Baptist church in the same area. I began meeting members of Good Shepherd while employed at Ingles in Hayesville and while volunteering at the Peacock Performing Arts Center. Karen Campbell and Sue Lekites and others were very welcoming as they invited me to attend and told me "we are all inclusive at Good Shepherd." I began researching the Episcopal faith because I wanted to attend a church where I would feel comfortable. Jan and I began attending services at Good Shepherd in 2015. I was baptized by Fr. Bill in January , 2016, and Jan and I were both confirmed in August , 2016 by Bishop Taylor .

I currently serve as acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, usher and oblation bearer at the 10:45 services. I also serve on the Altar Guild and have enjoyed volunteering for various other functions at GSEC such as Country Fare and Parish Life functions. I also help with Meals on Wheels in the winter while on leave from my job at Brasstown Bald.

Outside Activities and Hobbies: I like to browse antiques shops, thrift stores and flea markets with Jan during our time off. We also enjoy playing pickleball, hiking and spending time with our fur babies! I also spend time listening to music, practicing guitar and taking fiddle lessons, and I volunteer at the Peacock Performing Arts Center whenever possible.

Vision for Good Shepherd: If elected, I will continue to support our church vision of "Boldly engaging the world as God's shepherds" by rallying our very talented members of the congregation to assist us in reaching out to our youth that already attend Good Shepherd and to generate more interest for youth at GSEC. I would like to see more programs directed at the youth like monthly gatherings for dinner, music lessons or jam sessions, art lessons, dance lessons and other fun learning activities. We have a lot of talent here at Good Shepherd. Let's share it!! I would like to "Share God's blessings" by having a yearly dinner to raise money for one of our local animal shelters. We all know what great cooks we have here at Good



The Shepherd's Voice

Shepherd. We could sell tickets to the public for the event and have some entertainment. Maybe the youth could do a talent show for us!! Last but not least, "Creating Heaven on Earth, one person at a time." Our Meals on Wheels program is suffering. Let's all grab a partner and commit to this program. It is just one day a week! We also need to make sure that we are reaching out to our own congregation and I envision this as being an excellent opportunity for our youth to get involved and form a youth mission team. Sometimes just a visit or help from a young person can brighten the day of an elderly person. We need a mission for our youth so that they know we need them at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Hayesville, NC!! I look forward with excitement to the possibility of serving on the vestry and making a difference in the way we support and serve each other and our community.



Name: David O. Werdin

Family: Patricia – spouse, Creddy, Traveller, Sophie and Jack, our kids

Occupation: Home and yard maintenance

Church History: Member since 1990. I am a cradle Episcopalian starting in Newton, MA. Served on vestry in late 1990s. I have been on 2 medical mission to India with the help from Fr. John. Help with grounds and maintenance.

Outside Activities and Hobbies: Member of Clay County Fire and Rescue. I like to hunt, fish, camp and boating. Also enjoy offroading with my Jeep.

Vision for Good Shepherd: I would like to see the church grow with younger families from the area. I believe older members will still join after retiring to the area. Continued outreach programs to get the word out about our church and continue to bring in new members.

Name: Kathy Wright

Family: I am married to Michael Wright. Michael's business, Wright Woodworks, designs and builds custom woodwork. I am the proud mother of 3 sons, all grown, married and parents themselves. Ian, the oldest, is serving in the United States Air Force. He and his family are stationed in Germany. Christopher and Timothy are

twins. Christopher and his family live in West Virginia. Timothy and his family live in Raleigh, NC. All of my sons graduated from Hayesville High School and went on to the service or college. Between them I am

also the very proud grandparent of 5 grandchildren.

Occupation: I have retired from my day job. I was employed by United Community Bank. My experience in banking ranges from Teller to Legal Services Specialist. I worked for the bank for 27 years. I look on my volunteer work at Good Shepherd as a most satisfying job and am so happy to be able to do as much as I can.

Church History: I have been a confirmed Episcopalian for almost 40 years. I attended church of the Messiah, in Murphy, until 2011. At Messiah I served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte. I also served for 2 terms on the vestry, as church Treasurer and bookkeeper. I was a frequent delegate or alternate to the Diocesan Convention. I served on a Search Committee, and on a Discernment Committee. After moving to Good Shepherd I found much to do. I volunteered for Coffee Hour and most events involving food, helped with Country Fare, and served as a LEM. At that time I was working full time, so I was limited in what I could do to help. Since my retirement I have served as a Delegate and Alternate for Good Shepherd at the Diocesan Convention, was elected as an Alternate Deputy to the General Convention (National) in 2015. I am currently the Kitchen Manager at Good Shepherd and serve as a LEM, LEV, Hospital Visitor, and provide emergency back up for the Nursery and Altar Guild. I am the Convener of the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee and co-Librarian of the Good Shepherd Theological Library. It is my great pleasure to help with Parish Events. I knit prayer shawls.

Outside Activities: Volunteering at Church seems to be my big activity. I love to read, and enjoy travel. I especially love spending time with my children and grandchildren. I knit.

Vision for Good Shepherd: I am so pleased to be a part of a church that wants to make a difference in our community. I love that we as committee chairmen have mission statements and are charged with finding ways to be relevant in our community. I think Good Shepherd makes an amazing difference in Clay and Towns Counties. Many years ago, the Catholic church in Murphy saw a need for a Mental Health facility. From that vision Smoky Mountain Mental Health grew and began to make a difference. Unfortunately, a few years ago, funding became a problem. The center in Clay County was closed. There is no Mental Health Facility anymore in the Far Western part of the state. We have among our Parishioners, people who could advise us and help us to make this a reality for our community again. Start small and grow. Find space, find funding, establish a presence for people who are struggling. We are a part of a coalition that made DeSoto Square happen. I think we could make this happen too.

From Fr. George:

This article commences with the year 2018 in the title. Like many of us, I have taken some time to reflect on the year 2017. Last year was a tremendous year of transition for me. For one thing, the vestry initiated early on a small stipend for my volunteer priestly ministry at Good Shepherd. The last act for a vestry to do in any official capacity was to ask – notice the word I put in quotes – for me to resign. Here, however, the stipend was unanimously approved by the vestry with the counsel of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina and the Pension Fund of the National Episcopal Church.

It is a tremendously complicated process simply to legally receive a stipend while on disability. Good Shepherd crossed the T's and dotted the I's to ensure that everything was done correctly. Where am I going with all of this? It means that I get to exercise a priestly ministry at Good Shepherd while not having to worry about financial or legal matters.

Before coming to Good Shepherd, I had served four Episcopal Churches: two as Assistant; two as Rector. Being a Rector is a special calling. The Rector, along with the Senior Warden work in concert to ensure that the Church is being faithful to their calling. Along with an extensive priestly ministry, the Rector also does a tremendous amount of day-to-day administrative work. Father Bill does this extremely

well; he also works extremely well with Tom Wilkerson, our gifted Senior Warden. It is nothing personal, but I do not miss this part of ordained ministry. I missed these parts of ordination: the liturgy; the pastoral care; the Mission Trips. Father Bill gave me an amazing amount of opportunities for these three in 2017.

Yes, there are other opportunities for priestly ministry; however, even more important was the fact that in 2017 at least 90 percent of the time at the end of each week was spent with Anne back in Tennessee. It is significant that Anne and I keep our relationship strong and not have the institutional church, in a negative manner, infringe upon our relationship. Fr. Bill and you gave Anne and me your blessing to do so last year.

In all of this, it is my relationship with God that is most import. That relationship with God is the relationship above all relationships. It is directional. It gently guides. It softly steers. And it will continue to do so into 2018.



Parish News

Birthdays in January

- 2 Hannah Jones, Pam Rivers
- 5 Donna Blekfeld-Sztraky, Evie Cline
- 6 Barrie Lyden
- 7 Dorman McLamb
- 9 Mike Campbell
- 12 Cindy Nodine
- 13 David Schraml
- 16 Craig Underwood
- 17 Wendy Walker
- 21 Becky Van Gorder
- 24 Elizabeth Rybicki
- 25 Carolyn Cline-Griffiths
- 29 Pamela Williamson, Ed Reynolds, Chuck Van Gorder
- 31 Dorothy Leroux

Anniversaries in January

- 12 Meliss and Jon Czarnecki
- 25 Krista and Doug Strain
- 27 Kathleen and Barrie Lyden

In Sympathy we are thinking of:

The family of Tom Smith, former parishioner.

*Give rest, O Christ, to Thy servants with Thy saints, where sorrow and
pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

† † †

The Shepherd's Voice

Lectionary Readings

1 Epiphany: Baptism of our Lord January 7	2 Epiphany January 14	3 Epiphany January 21	4 Epiphany January 28
Genesis 1:1-15	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	Psalm 62:6-14	Psalm 111
Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Mailing Address:
PO Box 677
Hayesville NC 28904

Location:
495 Herbert Hills Dr.
Hayesville NC 28904

Phone: 828-389-3397
E-mail: gsepiscopal@brmemc.net

Web address:
goodshepherdhayesville.org