



The Shepherd's Voice

December 2017

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

Iconography Work Shop

The Arts and Spirituality Ministry is hosting a week long icon painting class March 19 thru March 23

2018. The class will run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM daily. The class will be taught by Teresa Harrison, nationally recognized teacher of iconography. The cost for the class is \$400.00 which includes all supplies and lunch each day. The Arts and Spirituality Ministry is offering a few scholarships for the class. Please see Father Bill by January 15, 2018 to apply for the scholarships.

We will be creating an icon in the traditional Byzantine style in this work shop. Each day will begin with a Eucharist Service, noon day prayer, group reflection, and teachings on the history of

icons and the practice of praying with icons. This is a joyful experience and is open to all faiths and to

those with or without experience. Beth Hitchcock has taken this class and would be happy to tell you about her experience.

Space for the class is limited. To reserve a place in the class, we are asking for a \$ 100.00 deposit with your sign-up and the rest of the monies due by February 15, 2018. The registration forms are in the hallway and there is a box for your registration form and the deposit in the office. You can see samples of the Icons on

Teresa Harrison's web page at www.teresaharrison.com



Christmas Services

Lessons and Carols

December 17, 10:45 am (8:00 am will be Rite I Holy Eucharist)

Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 21 at 11:00 am

Advent 4

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 am in the parish hall

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Christmas Day

10:00 am

Weekday services

The Soaking Prayer service on December 26 and Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, December 27 have been cancelled.

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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

- **2018 Good Shepherd Men's Retreat** – Confidence in God. January 15-18, 2018, Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA. The cost for the program, housing and meals is approximately \$350. "Confidence in God is a choice that isn't always easy to make, yet is imperative to make the choice. It is only then that our true journey towards God can begin. Awareness of the Divine Presence and discernment of God's will are foundational in the spiritual life. Through these principles found in the Christian classic, 'Abandonment to Divine Providence', we will explore the key elements of our pilgrimage." **Payments are due by November 30.** Half scholarships are available. Contact Fr Bill for more information and the sign up sheet in the hallway.

- **Advent Retreat Program** – The Religious Art of John August Swanson - Friday, December 1, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA. "Candler School of Theology enjoys an extensive collection of the work of Los Angeles artist John August Swanson. Noted for his finely detailed, brilliantly colored paintings and original prints, Swanson has works displayed in some of the world's most prestigious venues, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, The Art Institute of Chicago, London's Tate Gallery, the Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, among others. Candler's holdings – currently 55 pieces – comprise the largest single collection of Swanson's art in the world." Participation is limited by Candler to 12, so sign up in the hallway to reserve your space. We will carpool from Good Shepherd at 9:00A, eat lunch in Atlanta before the tour, and arrive back in Hayesville around 6:30P.

Third Quarter Outreach Ministry Allocations

Matt's Ministry	\$400
Clay County Food Pantry	\$200
Towns County Food Pantry	\$200
R.E.A.C.H. of Clay County	\$800
H.A.V.E.N.	\$800
S.A.F.E.	\$200
Communities for Schools, Clay Co.	\$800
Towns County Family Connection	\$200
The LAMB Institute, Honduras	\$200
Diocese of Durgapur, India	\$200

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

Financials (October 31, 2017)

2017 General Fund Balance:

Balance January 1, 2017	\$20,513
Income year to date	311,199
Expenses year to date	<u>-306,540</u>
General Fund Balance on October 31, 2017	\$25,172

Balance on bank mortgage \$145,831

Balance on Mt. of Faith loan \$22,000

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.

A Willingness to Serve

Somewhere along my spiritual journey I was told that God is more interested in our faithfulness than our success. I was told that we are called to be faithful, not successful. I found that liberating at the time and still do. Those who grew up in environments where achievement and success mattered greatly, and failure was associated with embarrassment and shame, may also find this liberating. For God, it is not whether you succeed or fail in your calling or ministry, and it is not results or awards that count, but it is whether you answer the call. The Bible gives us a multitude of examples of this including just these few.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

- Isaiah 6:8

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

- Luke 1:38

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

- Luke 22:42

It is our faithfulness, our "yes" to a call to serve that matters to God. There are a number of reasons why that "yes" may lead to what we see as a successful ministry or outcome, but there are probably just as many reasons for why we do not see successes. And the truth may be that most of either outcome is beyond our individual control. We do pray after all, "your Kingdom come, your will be done" as we admit that God's will and Kingdom are "mysterium tremendum et fascinans" (a terrible mystery).



Your vestry nominating committee has been busy talking with folks about their willingness to serve on the Good Shepherd vestry. I understand that there are many legitimate reasons why someone would not be able to serve at this time, but for others I want them to know that their "yes" is not about success or failure to be elected but about their faithfulness in answering the call to serve. If you are willing to serve, please let me or a member of the vestry nominating committee know.

May God's holiness be yours,

Fr. Bill+

The Shepherd's Voice

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet on Saturday December 23 at 10:00 am to set up for Christmas Eve Services. The service on Sunday December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent will be at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall with only one service that morning). Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00

pm and a 11:00 pm. We need someone who will be at the 4:00 pm service to help clean up and reset up for the late service that night and someone from the late service to help clean up after that service. I will be there but can always use help. Thanks for all you do.

Flower Guild Luncheon

To all members, and anyone interested in expression their "TALENT," or wanting to develop their interest in expressing their "TALENT" in flower arranging. No experience is necessary...just a love for God's beauty around us.

There will be a planning and scheduling luncheon on Tuesday, December 5, at 11:00 am at my home at 160 Barlow Fields Terrace. Please RSVP to 828-389-4763.

Joy Fox, Flower Guild Chair

Third Annual Super Seniors Christmas Luncheon

Calling All Super Seniors to come and bring your friends to the third annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 12 at noon in the parish hall. Please bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift. Join us for

caroling, gifts and fun! For information and to RSVP contact Helga at 727-418-2239. You may also sign up in the hallway.

Remember the Church Staff for Christmas

Your vestry requests that you place your gift in the collection plate using the envelopes in the pew pocket or the narthex or send it to the church by December 17.

Annual Report deadline

Good Shepherd's annual meeting will be held on January 21, 2018. The annual report will be produced to be distributed for that meeting. If you are a ministry head, we'd like to include in that report information about what your ministry has been doing in 2016. This is a way to let others in the congregation know more about the great work of your ministry. Reports are due by December 31. Send them

to gsepiscopal@brmemc.net or bring/send a copy to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. If your ministry has completed their activities for the year, please consider submitting your information earlier than December 31.

From Fr. George

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first Mission Trip of a team of Good Shepherd parishioners will be completing their preparations and departing for Annunciation Episcopal Church in New Orleans. The plan is to repair some buildings and homes, work in soup kitchens and shelters, and do some landscaping. Repair. Work. Do. They are all verbs – action words. They are an integral part of a mission trip.

What is of equal significance – perhaps even more so – is being. Being together. In our time of being together, perhaps we perceive one another in a transformed manner. Here is a concrete example: it is literally two parishioners who are polar opposites in beliefs over a broad spectrum of issues who find that they have Christ in common. I had no idea that you ... (fill in the blank here), says one to another. In that human transaction, a divine transaction takes place. There is a substantial bond forged through repairing, working, and doing together; there is an even deeper bond forged in being together. Something happens. There is no calculable report I can make on the results of this phenomenon. I just know it's real.

By being in a relationship with the staff and parishioners of Annunciation Episcopal Church since 2007, and being a part of diverse mission teams from what will now be three different Episcopal Churches has brought me to the conclusion that our ministry is one of relationships. Our ministry is not so much about principles as much as it is about people. Furthermore, it is not always a ministry with those who agree with us. It is a ministry that pulls us out of where we feel comfortable and onto a journey that leads us into places of challenge where transformation transpires.

A therapist once told me, Lives are not going to change until that person's behavior begins to change. This was his counsel to my query as to pastorally responding in a healthy manner to people who are in a

constant state of chaos. They make poor choices that come back to them in a negative way and then blame everyone else for their sad circumstances. And, yes, there are always people who have bad things happen to them that are not their fault. I am referring here to people who are always in chaos and always pointing the finger of blame at others.



Spiritual chaos is just the same. When things do not go our way at church, then the easiest thing to do is to blame others. However, here is how that unhealthy phenomenon can be converted: When we begin to simply be with those others with whom we do not always agree in a variety of contexts from local outreach to national Mission Trips, to coffee hour in the Parish Hall to worship in the Nave, to visits in both hospital and home, we begin to see that the Kingdom of Heaven is much broader than we once imagined.

In addition to this, Jesus so often taught with the phrase that began, The Kingdom of Heaven is like ... His listeners' responses ran the gamut from surprised to shocked as to what he was teaching; he used common illustrations and turned them completely upside-down and inside-out. His past and present listeners certainly did not think that God could be in those kinds of people or even these kinds of people; or those kinds of places or even these kinds of places.

The Kingdom of Heaven might even lead us to the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth. Look carefully and listen attentively - there may even be a barn where a homeless mother and father sought shelter and are just about to become parents.

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Vestry Nominations

The nominating committee consisting of Harry Baughn, Beth Hitchcock, Kanute Rarey, Karen Sirmans, Jerry Taylor and Betsi Wilson is now soliciting input for the elections of vestry members for 2017. Four new vestry members will be elected. To be eligible to run for vestry a candidate must meet the following requirements:

- Members – All persons whose Baptism, Confirmation, Reception or Letter of Transfer has been recorded in this church, and who have been confirmed or received by the Bishop. (Canon 1.17.1 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church of the United States.)
- Communicants in Good Standing of Good Shepherd – All members of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship and have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving

for the spread of the Kingdom of God. (Canon 1.17.3 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church of the United States and Canon 10.7 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western NC.)

- No less than 18 years of age, who have agreed to serve on the vestry for the elected term (3 years), to serve on one committee, and to attend Church functions.
- Have no spouse serving concurrently on the vestry.
- Shall be a contributor of record through faithful monetary giving to Good Shepherd.

If you would like to nominate a member of the parish for vestry, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee before December 25.

Absentee Voting Procedures for Vestry Election

The procedure for absentee voting is:

1. Absentee ballots may be requested from the Parish office during normal business hours, in person, by phone, by mail or by email. When an absentee ballot is requested, the Parish office issuing the ballot will mark the requester's name from the master list of Parish members eligible to vote, and such person will not be permitted to vote in person without first surrendering the absentee ballot in blank.
2. Absentee ballots must be physically received in the Parish office no later than Friday noon preceding the last Sunday of regular voting.

3. An absentee ballot will be sealed in a plain envelope without the voter's name appearing. The envelope containing the ballot will be placed in a second envelope that does include the voter's name so that it may be checked as received.
4. All absentee ballots will be opened as soon as the ballot boxes are closed, and their count will be supervised in the same manner as regular ballots.
5. The vestry election will take place on January 7 and 14 after both services. Absentee ballots may be requested now but will not be mailed before December 30. Absentee ballots must arrive back in the church office by noon on January 12.

Parish News

Birthdays in December

- 1 Nick George
- 3 Kathy Marcel
- 4 Jarod Covington
- 6 Joan Mahon
- 7 Pat Hicks, Gil Nicolson
- 10 Cheryl Notchie
- 12 Marilyn Clark, Teresa Gribble
- 13 Oliver Gray
- 15 Hazel McIntyre, Carolyn Rice, Joan Walter
- 16 Patty Bilitzke, Abigail Granacki
- 17 Carol Smucker
- 19 Sean Riley
- 26 Ed Kelley
- 27 Vicky Schwartz, Birch Criss
- 30 Melissa Czarnecki, Karen Foster, Fred King
- 31 Gail Criss, Dudley Hall

Anniversaries in December

- 7 Angela and Joe Martin
- 16 Jean and Mike Gora
- 19 Abby and Jonathan Bethel
- 22 Randy and Kelly Williams
- 29 Susan and Mark Barbaro
- 31 Becky and Chuck Van Gorder

End of Year Donations

All donations for 2017 must be in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2017. Any contributions received or postmarked after that date will be credited to 2018 contributions.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2017 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

Christmas Memorials

If you would like to contribute to the decoration of the church for Christmas as a memorial or in honor of a loved one. Please use one of the envelopes you will find in the narthex or fill out the information below and return it to the office with your check marked "Christmas Plants." These memorials will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The deadline to get the memorials in the bulletin is December 17.

Bulletin statement:

"Christmas decorations are given to the glory of God by

_____ (Your name)

() in loving memory of

_____ () in thanksgiving for

I would like to donate _____ toward Christmas decorations. I understand the plants will be distributed to homebound parishioners.

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Lectionary Readings for December

1 Advent	2 Advent	3 Advent	4 Advent	1 Christmas
December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 61:10 —62:3
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Psalm 147:13-21
I Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a	I Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Mark 1:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:26-38	John 1:1-18
Lessons and Carols				
Isaiah 11:1-9				
Isaiah 40:1-11				
Isaiah 7:10-15				
Luke 1:26-38				
Matthew 1:18-23				
Mark 1:1-15				



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

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