



The Shepherd's Voice

August 2018

Services

Sunday:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
Rite I

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

Sabbatical in Brief

The Diocese of Western North Carolina encourages clergy to take sabbatical for the renewal and refreshment of the priest and the benefit of the parish. After five years of service, the prescribed sabbatical is ten weeks which can be lengthened using annual vacation weeks. Here are some details of my sabbatical you may want to know. My last Sunday before going away will be September 2 with my first week away being a week of vacation time. Your vestry has negotiated an agreement with the Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton who will be with you during my sabbatical. If you know Delmer, you know what you are getting. If you do not yet know him, you are in for a treat and do not want to miss his time with us while I am away. Between him, Fr. George, Dcn. Turner, and your wardens, the church will remain in

excellent leadership hands. As for me, I have several adventures planned. Susan and I are going to New England for a week in celebration of our 25th anniversary, and then I will be going on a road trip with my dad and brother to visit Pittsburgh and explore our family's Lithuanian heritage. The last big adventure is a two week stay in Jerusalem where I be taking a class and visiting holy sites. Otherwise, I will be walking in the woods somewhere, taking in a Gamecock's football game or two, and reading Bonhoeffer. My return is Monday, November 19 and I anticipate some sharing in the weeks to follow. I am grateful for this time of renewal and refreshment and the support of the wardens, vestry, parish, and my fellow clergy in making this possible.

Good Shepherd Founders Day Celebration

Join us on Saturday, August 25 at 5:30 pm for our annual Founders Day Celebration. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Dr. Chilton's address is entitled "The Church in Southern Appalachia" and will provide an overview of the

significant factors shaping how church developed in our region. A spaghetti supper will be offered by your Parish Life ministry and they invite you to bring your favorite Italian salad or desert to share. A signup sheet is in the hallway. Please call Mary Rose Figura at 404-626-6513 for more information.

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Christian Education

Upcoming

- **Lectionary Bible Study** will return in September as we work through the appointed readings for the following Sunday. .
- **Advent Quiet Day: The Christmas Songs of Luke** — December 8, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. On this Advent quiet day, we will use Lectio Divina to read, meditate, pray and reflect on the three Christmas songs in the Gospel according to Luke. (The Song of Mary, The Song of Zechariah, The Song of Simeon) Lectio Divina is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.

No prior experience is necessary. A simple lunch will be served.
Sign up in the hallway.

- **Rector's Brown Bag Book Read 2019** — Tuesdays at noon in the library
 - ⇒ February 19 – *Quarantine* by Jim Crace
 - ⇒ April 30 – *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
 - ⇒ June 18 – *When Prophecy Fails* by Leon Festinger
 - ⇒ August 20 – *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Trish Warren
 - ⇒ October 22 – *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal
 - ⇒ December 10 – *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Crossan

Singing = Health!

Do you love to sing? Do you love music? Do you love to have fun? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should think about joining us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm to be a part of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Chancel Choir (GSECC for short). If you have ever sung in a choir, sung in your car, sung in the shower; then you have the talent to join us to sing praises to God. Whether you can read music or not, you are welcome to join us. I have been told that I'm a "great choir director, amazing teacher, hysterical comedian and

overall good person to hang out with on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings". Who said this you ask?.....Suzy! We will be having our first Choir rehearsal on Wednesday August 1 at 7:00 pm and a Choir retreat on Saturday August 4 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Come and join us and raise your voice to the heavens. If you have any questions please call me 828-557-3179 or email keith@keithandsuzy.com.

Financials (June 30, 2018)

2018 General Fund Balance:

General Fund Balance on January 1, 2018	\$20,700
Income year to date	184,697
Expenses year to date	<u>-188,354</u>
General Fund Balance on June 30, 2018	\$17,043
Balance on bank mortgage	\$132,889
Balance on Mt. of Faith loan	\$14,000

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.

Amen

"Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust, our security, our consolation and our God. Hoarding is idolatry."

— Dietrich

Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

I agree. That is what "amen" means. At the end of our prayer called the Great Thanksgiving, we say amen. God has saved the world and our future is secure. Amen, I agree. Christ is with us in the sharing of the bread and wine. Amen, I agree. In receiving that gift, we are given forgiveness and renewal, solace and strengthening. Amen, I agree. Likewise, we end the Lord's Prayer with amen. Life where God's will is being done on Earth, where daily bread is available for all who are hungry, where forgiveness of sin leads to amendment of life, and where salvation from evil produces grateful saints - amen to all that. We end all prayer with that amen, or at least we should if we are serious about what we say, and believe, and hope. Amen is a statement of truth, a statement of faith, and a proclamation of our trust in God. By saying amen to all that God has shown us through the law and the prophets, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the coming of the Holy Spirit and the ongoing life of the Church, we are fundamentally saying that we trust the story of God who created us, cares for us, redeemed us, and remains with and for us.

In the quote above, Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us of a fundamental truth about all our material possessions. It is an amen truth. It is a truth revealed in scripture and applied to real life. God gives us what we need and so we need not worry and seek permanent possession of material goods. God provided daily bread for the Israelites in the wilderness and Jesus reminds us of that in Matthew chapter 6. But an important part of the story can be overlooked. Anything kept in excess went bad, and not just the gift itself but also the hearts of God's people. As Bonhoeffer put it, a heart set on accumulated wealth is a barrier to God. "Hoarding is idolatry." For that reason we may realize that giving away excess, rather than storing up possessions, is a preventive to and remedy for idolatry. Giving away excess is a blessing to us and to those who might benefit from our sharing. It is also our witness to the truth of God's caring provision and our trust in that truth. It is an amen truth.

Next month, pledge cards will be mailed and you will be asked to make a generous financial gift to the work of this parish. In many ways, you are being asked to trust - in God's care for you, in God's care for those you love, in the mission and ministry of the church, and in the wise use of your gift by those in authority. I bid you pray and trust. Amen.

Fr. Bill+



The Shepherd's Voice

Moms' Connection Group Enjoying Summer Events



On June 15th we were joined by Rob Withrow of Smoke in the Mountains Pottery who guided the moms and children in creating their own whimsical mugs! Thanks to Hope Burch and Parents As Teachers organization for sponsoring this event at our church. We had a great turnout of 9 moms and 13 children!! We are planning to go to Meek's Park in Blairsville on July 20th where we have reserved the Splash Pad for two hours of fun. Then on August 17th we are planning to go to Lake Chatuge and playground for a picnic outing. Come and join us!! We are in need of volunteers for the nursery during the meetings held at the church. We meet from 10:00 am to 11:30 am on the third

Friday of each month. Even if you can only come every other month, we need you!! It is as much a blessing to the volunteers as it is to all the moms and kids. Please join us in this important ministry for our church and for outreach into the community. For more information call Susan Gray @ 828-361-7175.



Altar Guild Luncheon!

All Altar Guild members are asked to meet at Pat Jordan's house 93 Oak Forest Hills, Hayesville on Monday August 13th at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon. A main dish and dessert will be provided. If you wish to bring a dish to share that would be nice. We have invited. Fr. Bill, Fr. George and Delmer Chilton, Tom Griffith and Susie Herbert to meet with us as we need to be on the same page while Fr. Bill is away.

Please make every effort to attend. please call 389-8981 or 361-9474 and let me know how many to expect. If you wish to swim bring your swim suits and we will swim after the meeting. Most of all thank you all for all you do. Please think about any questions you may have or issues that concern you. Please let me know if you can attend. Thank you for all you do.

NOLA Mission Trip 2.0

There are thirteen (13) of us currently registered for the Mission Trip to New Orleans from December 4-9, 2018.

The guest house of our host church, Trinity Episcopal, has a limit of 22 guests. If you are interested in participating in this Mission trip, you are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. We hope to fill every available place!

Trip plans include a stop in Meridian, MS on December 4 in order to break up the long drive to NO. We will arrive in New Orleans around

noon on Wednesday, December 5, and we have plans for some free time that afternoon. Our mission work will begin on Thursday morning and will include construction as well as working in the Food Pantry.

Please check with Father George regarding scholarships.

Other questions may be directed to Glenn Marcel (225-572-0615) or Kathy Marcel (225- 937-2030).

From Fr. George

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p. 815)

The above prayer is, in my opinion, one of the very best in The Book of Common Prayer. As I will often refer to that section of the Prayer Book as the White Pages, the chances are quite likely that the Prayer Books in the pews have a small stain strip of dark on the outside of the pages roughly a quarter of the way from the beginning that are in stark contrast to the white. The discoloring comes from the traces of oil and dirt found on our fingers. Contrary to this, the White Pages have rarely been opened; we miss out on some of the best prayers when we narrow our focus to the pages of the Holy Eucharist.

There are sometimes that we can recount those occasions when prayers from the Prayer Book and verses of scripture spring to life right before us. For instance, once in my priestly ministry I was down in an Emergency Room of an urban hospital visiting a parishioner who was about to be admitted for some extensive medical testing. All around was a jumble of humanity - age, wealth (or lack thereof), races and languages, genders, severity of injuries, etc ... I am embarrassed to admit it, but a very real sense of claustrophobia was wrapping emotional tentacles around me as the space began to fill with even more sights, smells and sounds. It was right after the parishioner was admitted that I bolted outside to walk around and get some *fresh air*. I put that phrase in quotes, because I walked right into - of all places - the smoker's section.

It was a frozen moment. There I was in a gray suit, black clergy shirt with white clerical collar; there they were with tattooed arms and legs, bald headed or long braided and multicolored hair, combined with a chaotic cacophony of clothing, with the common denominator of cigarettes being puffed on. There was a pause. It came down to this moment of time just outside of an urban ER that the question of identity and role came to the fore. It was clear from my collar that I was the religious figure. So what did that mean?



The gospels refer to Jesus as *being a friend of tax collectors and sinners*. It goes deeper than that, however. Jesus simply did things differently than the regular religious figures of his day. He interacted with the outcasts. (If you're in the smoker's section outside of an overflowing and chaotic ER, then you are an outcast.) What would you have done in that very moment? I can write that it was a sacred time of reminding myself of who I represented. How did Jesus act in these sorts of situations? Inwardly I laughed because Jesus would have physically healed everyone; nevertheless, emotional and spiritual healing can come through our human conversation and contact.

Gentle nods. Sincere smiles. Warm handshakes. Genuine offers of cigarettes. All of these came together and questions concerning one another's health began to permeate the air far more than the smoke.

Since I could not drive at night, my ride picked me up within ten minutes. I know I experienced Jesus out there. I pray that some of the smokers experienced Jesus in me. As the prayer starts off, *O God, you made us in your own image ...*

The Shepherd's Voice

Newcomer Ginia Wood



Tell us about yourself and your family. Children, grandchildren, parents, spouse/partner.

I have 7 fur babies. 3 giant dogs and 4 cats. They are all rescues and spoiled rotten.

What brought you to this area?

I was born here, moved away for college and returned.

What is your background...ie, occupation?

I am the Head of User Engagement Librarian at Young Harris College and the evening supervisor so I work from 4pm-midnight.

What are your interests? Hobbies?

Reading, gardening, my animals take a lot of my time. I am just starting to learn to quilt.

How did you first come to Good Shepherd and what attracts you to stay?

Jerry Taylor and Jake Bradshaw invited me. I like that everyone is so welcoming to everyone and kind.

Newcomers Jay and Mary Ann Miller



"We are the Millers" (no relationship to the movie). We are somewhat new to the area. Mary Ann is from Hiawassee, so she had made a full circle. We moved here from Dahlonega after Mary Ann accepted a job in Blairsville and

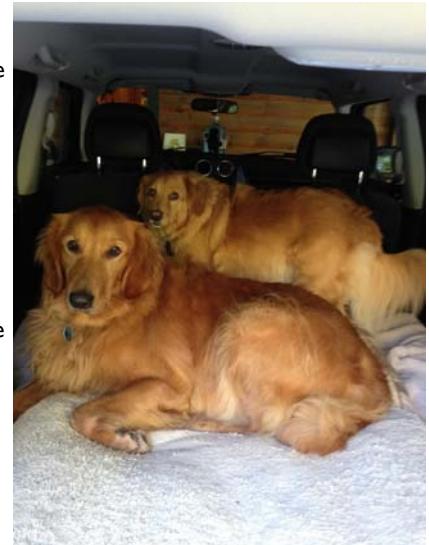
we live in the Trackrock area in Union County.

Jay is originally from Centerville, Ohio. He worked in procurement for Bell South for 24 years. His work brought him to Atlanta back in the 90s. He had a weekend home near Helen and that is where Mary Ann and he met and were married in 2002. He just recently accepted a job at Bitter Creek Market. In his spare time, Jay loves to go trout fishing.

Mary Ann as stated earlier is from Hiawassee. She has been around the world (well kind of). She lived in Germany for 3 years and then came back to Georgia where she worked in Helen for many years. Mary Ann is the graphic designer/marketing manager at Corrugated

Replacements in Blairsville. She enjoys singing in the choir at Good Shepherd. She is also an avid fisherwoman. She is also very involved with the Towns County Historical Society.

We both feel blessed to be here in the mountains. We became doubly blessed when we found Good Shepherd. Jay doesn't come from a church background. Mary Ann became an Episcopalian back in the 90s but had strayed away from the church completely. We both wanted a church where we felt loved and at home. Jerry Taylor, a long time friend of Mary Ann's kept trying to get us to come to the church. I think he knew we would fit in. He was right! The unconditional love and spiritual nourishment we get each week lets us know we have found the right church home!



Diaper Ministry

The Moms' Connection Diaper Bank has provided a vital service to Matt's Ministry since January.

Thank you for your continued support of this valuable community program.

Please watch the weekly bulletins for requests for specific size diapers that are most needed during that week or month.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Parish News

Birthdays in

- 1 John Notchie, Jim Redmond
- 3 Meg Gring Whitley
- 4 Barb Lanwermeyer, Chuck Underwood
- 5 Danny Wilson
- 7 Signe Ehrhart, Violet Howell, Bill Clark
- 10 Jan Chatterton, Gayle Graziano, David Hourdequin, Andrew Jones
- 11 Candy List
- 13 Brenda Gignilliat, Mary Anne Kooš, Mark Barbaro, Elmer Wilson
- 15 Lynn Kirby, Geoff Schwartz
- 17 Barb Hansen, Becky Underwood
- 18 Bill Monahan, Furie Soles
- 21 Bev Larson, Bob Kolar
- 23 Fr. Bill, Jim Halloran
- 24 Barb Field
- 26 Mary Ackerly
- 29 Ginia Wood
- 31 Don Roman

Anniversaries in

- 2 Elizabeth and Joe Rycicki
- 3 Anne and Fr. George Choyce
- 4 Amy and Gil Nicolson
- 8 Stephanie and Bob Forbes, Barb and Lou Lanwermeyer
- 9 Lois Ann and Ed Wentzel
- 10 Sharon and Rick Sanderson
- 11 Becky and Craig Underwood
- 13 Suzi Herbert and Robert Schneider
- 17 Candy and Pat List, Barb and Jim Redmond, Pat and David Werdin
- 18 Liz and Dorman McLamb
- 19 Shirley and Bob Stillwell
- 22 Robin and Mel Halfon
- 27 Cheri and Mac Pinner
- 28 Cathy and Bob vander Meer

Congratulations

On the birth of Luke Chilton, son of Joseph and Crystal Chilton, grandson of Delmer and Deborah Chilton.

On the marriage of Nathan Bourne and Nicole Benevenia on June 16 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Handicap ramp available

The handicap ramp of Kay and Judd McCarthy is available for repurposing. The original ramp was in 3 sections with a right angle turn and was constructed with treated wood. The first section off the deck is 6'3". The landing is 4'x4'. The ramp to the ground is 9'10"

long. The ramp has been disassembled into 3 sections. The ramp comes with rails (also disassembled) and assorted screws. Contact Gil or Amy Nicolson(389-4204) if interested.

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Lectionary Readings for August

11 Pentecost	12 Pentecost	13 Pentecost	14 Pentecost
August 5	August 12	August 17	August 26
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	1 Kings 19:4-8	Proverbs 9:1-6	Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18
Psalm 78:23-29	Psalm 34:1-8	Psalm 34:9-14	Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 4:1-16	Ephesians 4:25 — 5:2	Ephesians 5:15-20	Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:24-35	John 6:35, 41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69



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