



The Shepherd's Voice

August
2025

Services:

Sunday

9:00am Holy Eucharist
Rite I

11:00am Holy Eucharist
Rite II

11am service is live
streamed to Facebook at:
[facebook.com/
goodshepherdhayesvillenc/](https://facebook.com/goodshepherdhayesvillenc/)

Coffee Hour in the Parish
Hall following 11am
Sunday service



Tuesday

7:00pm Soaking Prayer

Wednesday

12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/
Healing Prayer

1:00 pm Lectionary
Bible Study

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove,
Rector

*Walking into this month
with*

God-fidence



KNOWING I CAN'T BUT *He* CAN



Making Choices

Since you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Colossians 3:1-3

In this book "Theory of the Leisure Class" early 20th century sociologist Thorstein Veblen developed the concepts of pecuniary emulation and conspicuous consumption to describe the drive for status and recognition through the competitive purchasing and display of expensive luxury goods. This ego-driven focus on earthly status and material possessions for the enjoyment of the I, the me, and the my are not unfamiliar to us. It is not uncommon for members of Western nations to seek to "keep up with the Joneses", or even to out-Jones the Joneses. Hyacinth Bucket knows what it takes.*



In Jesus' day, honor and shame were shaped and upheld by consumption just as today. Wealthy patrons signaled their high status by showing beneficence to clients. Clients were ranked by who was invited to share in the display and consumption of wealth and where one sat at such gatherings. We do such things today and curiously, many who will never be invited, are fascinated by reading guest lists and narratives of conspicuous consumption. I guess for some vicarious enjoyment is better than nothing at all.

While Jesus tells us that his way is the way sacrifice and serving, of taking up one's cross and following him, our eyes and hearts might remain fixed on the rules of this world and what this world offers. His disciples James and John want to sit at his right hand in power. Peter wonders what he will get having given up everything. The rich young man went away sad because he was told to sell everything and give the money to the poor. A landowner faced with a fortunate windfall decides the appropriate thing is to build larger storage barns and keep even more to himself, for himself. Do recall that the temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness were about gaining worldly power, wealth, and honor. We are given these and many other scriptures for our reflection. Where are we in this whole worldly, possession possessed life? As Jesus had a choice in the wilderness, as the disciples had a choice to follow or not, we are presented with a choice: eyes upon the world and its ways or eyes raised to heaven above and the way of Jesus.

The Pauline writer to the Colossians exhorts the faithful to raise their heads, to look up and recall that they have a new status and a new treasure beyond anything the world can offer. In Christ, they are co-heirs of the Kingdom of God, owners of everything and lacking nothing, beneficiaries of eternal life. It is a choice we have either to embrace or not to embrace this exhortation in our being and our doing. Which choice will we make and how will that choice affect how we will live? Will it be pecuniary emulation, conspicuous consumption, and building larger barns or being rich toward God in caring for the things God in Christ cared for?

Grace and peace,

Fr. Bill +

* Hyacinth Bucket (Bouquet) is the lead actor in *Keeping up Appearances*, a British sitcom about a middle class family attempting to pass as superior to their standing and class background.



August

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Bravery

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Day 1: Deuteronomy 31:6,8 | Day 17: Isaiah 41:13 |
| Day 2: 2 Samuel 10:12 | Day 18: Matthew 10:28 |
| Day 3: 1 Chronicles 17:25 | Day 19: Mark 5:36 |
| Day 4: 2 Chronicles 15:7 | Day 20: Acts 4:29-31 |
| Day 5: Ezra 7:27-28 | Day 21: 1 Corinthians 16:13 |
| Day 6: Psalm 27:1-3 | Day 22: 2 Corinthians 10:1-2 |
| Day 7: Psalm 27:14 | Day 23: Ephesians 3:8-13 |
| Day 8: Psalm 56:3-4 | Day 24: Ephesians 6:10 |
| Day 9: Psalm 62:6-8 | Day 25: Philippians 1:20 |
| Day 10: Psalm 118:6 | Day 26: Colossians 1:11 |
| Day 11: Proverbs 14:26 | Day 27: 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| Day 12: Proverbs 18:11 | Day 28: Hebrews 13:6 |
| Day 13: Proverbs 28:1 | Day 29: James 5:8 |
| Day 14: Isaiah 35:4 | Day 30: 1 Peter 3:5-6 |
| Day 15: Isaiah 40:26 | Day 31: Revelation 2:10 |
| Day 16: Isaiah 40:29 | |

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*



The Ruffled Mamey

Breath Prayers

Isaiah 43

Inhale: Do not fear,

Exhale: for I have redeemed you;

Inhale: I have called you by your name,

Exhale: you are mine.

Inhale: I will be with you

Exhale: when you pass through the waters,

Inhale: and when you pass through rivers

Exhale: they will not overwhelm you.

Inhale: You will not be scorched

Exhale: when you walk through fire,

Inhale: For I am the Lord your God

Exhale: and your Savior.

Inhale: Do not fear,

Exhale: for I am with you.

An August Affirmation

I am leaning into my calling.

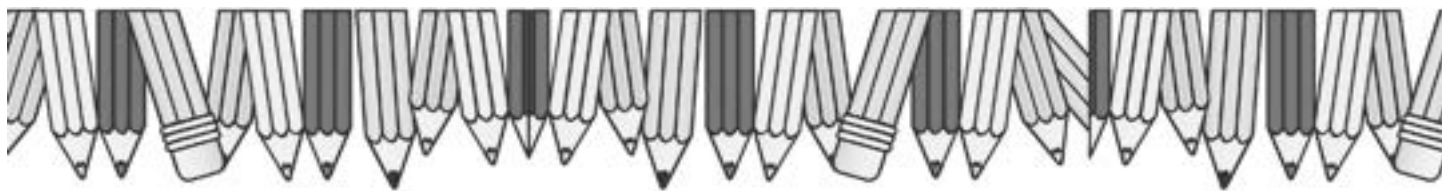
I am leaning into my gifts.

I am accepting the responsibilities
that come with being seen and seeing
others.

I am thanking God in advance
and I am showing up for the work
every day in the best ways I can.



Back to School!



CLAY COUNTY
COMMUNITY *for* STUDENTS



School Supply Drive

Larger bookbags for Middle & High School age

Zippered 3 ring binders/Trapper Keepers

Reusable Water Bottles

Poster Boards/Tri Fold boards

Headphones

Earbuds

Gallon Ziplock bags

Tissues

Paper towels

Clorox Wipes

Hand Sanitizer

New Underwear all sizes

Drawstring/elastic waist pants & shorts all sizes



Blueberry Pancake Festival Acknowledgements

We had so many parishioners with active participation in the event. So many smiles! Greeters took donations at the door. John Breazeale led the kitchen team to prepare delicious pancakes and sausage. Volunteers served to mix batter, flip pancakes, bake sausage and coordinate the flow from kitchen to the serving line on warmed plates. Pancakes and sausages were plated by servers. Some assisted at the beverage station. We are most thankful for the participants that came to eat and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Kathy Rarey engaged bakers to prepare "Blueberry Anything" and also encouraged bake goods of other varieties. The cake auction was successful as winners bantered to divide beautiful cakes for shared appreciation.

The Arts and Spiritual Ministry was a generous partner to manage the Artisan donations for sale. Betsi and Joy processed donations and designed the display of stunning donated items in fiber arts, paintings, pottery, jewelry, historical car sketches, pistachio flowers and so many more mediums.

Last, but not least, we had behind the scene set-up and clean-up stewards as well. We are so pleased so many participated in the event. It was an enjoyable afternoon. Net proceeds at this time are \$4,400.00!!! Thank you so much for your generous giving and choosing to support the Dental ministry.

With good faith,

Patti Brownlee, Coordinator
Jan Freeman, Co-Coordinator
Kathy Rarey, Bakery
Betsi Wilson, Artisan Coordinator
Sandy Benson, Publicity Professional

The Shepherd's Voice

Newcomers Corner: Sam & Meredith Samsil

Getting to Know the Newest Members of Our Good Shepherd Family

It took more than 30 years for **Sam and Meredith ("Mere") Samsil's** journey to bring them to Good Shepherd—but now that they're here, it feels like home. Though they only moved to Hayesville in early January 2025, they've already become an active addition to our church family.

"For many years we often visited friends in Hayesville," says Mere. "After we (Sam & I) decided to move here, we found an apartment and hired movers. Two weeks later, after searching the internet for churches, we decided to visit Good Shepherd—it's only three minutes down Highway 64 from us. The rest is history. We enjoy where we live, and especially our church!" She notes that they come from an Anglican background, so the church felt familiar—but even more, it felt *right*. "This is the most loving, interesting, God-centered, lively, fulfilling group we've ever been a part of. We truly felt God's hand leading us here."

Sam and Mere come to us from Kingsport, Tennessee, bringing with them a shared love of gardening, deep faith, and a remarkable love story—more than 30 years in the making. Although they married in 2018, their courtship spanned three decades. Their blended family includes children and grandchildren across the globe: Sam has a son in Birmingham and a daughter who works as a registered nurse in Jacksonville, while Meredith has two sons (one currently in China and one practicing law in Birmingham) and a daughter in Acworth, GA. Together they celebrate a vibrant extended family that includes grandkids, great-grandkids, and blessings beyond measure.

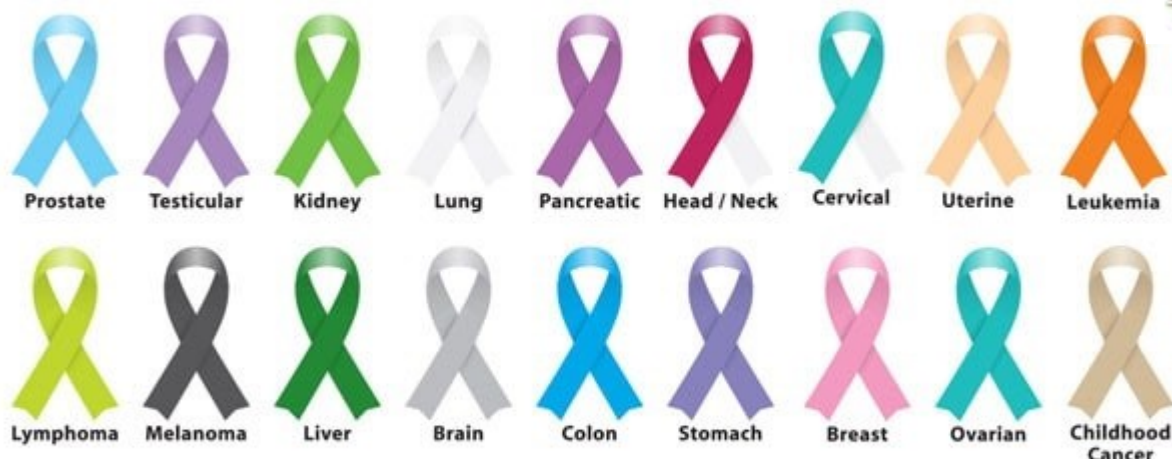
"We both had careers in insurance, but that's not where we met," says Mere. "Sam retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, with some interesting deployments. He later became a lawyer; I was then a legal secretary." They clearly share a similar drive and work ethic. Now retired, they're embracing this new chapter with enthusiasm—and a good sense of humor. Sam is interested in "doing some fishing and eating more oysters at a local joint," while Meredith is looking forward to returning to painting and continuing her love of sewing and gardening. She adds that she often tries to read Christian books, "but sitting down after a full day usually makes me fall asleep!"

At Good Shepherd, they enjoy participating in the Cancer Survivor Group, the Prayer Chain, and other special activities. "We thank God for blessing us with each other and Good Shepherd." The Samsils are living proof that new beginnings can be both joyful and spirit-filled. "It seems we showed up and just moved right in," they said. "Everyone has been loving, kind, accepting, forgiving, and totally wonderful."

Welcome, Sam and Mere! We're so glad God brought you here!!!



The Shepherd's Voice



On Tuesday, [August 19th](#) we are hosting our Cancer Support Group in the Parish Hall at **5pm**. We are hoping to offer support to those on the journey of dealing with, surviving, and/or caring for someone with cancer. Bring something to share in thoughts, ideas, and of course some food. Contact Jose Arias by email if you can't attend in person but would like to be part of the meeting by zoom: jose_m_arias@hotmail.com



Communications Ministry

Are you a whiz coordinating? Do you delegate tasks well?
 Fantastic! We need a leader! We invite you to prayerfully
 consider serving as Chair of our Communications Ministry.
 Come display the talents that God gifted you with!!!
 He's calling...will you answer?

Please see Fr. Bill for further information.





BIBLE EDITION

would you rather?

Circle which you'd prefer.

- witness God creating the world **OR** the parting of the Red Sea
- visit the Garden of Eden **OR** visit the Promised Land
- see Jesus walk on water **OR** see Jesus turn water into wine
- help build Noah's ark **OR** name the animals like Adam
- face Goliath alone **OR** wander the desert for 40 years
- eat at the Last Supper **OR** watch Jesus feed the 5,000
- see Jesus raise Lazarus **OR** see Jesus heal a blind man
- have the wisdom of Solomon **OR** have the strength of Samson
- swallowed by a fish with Jonah **OR** share the lion's den with Daniel
- live in Old Testament times **OR** live in New Testament times
- have courage like Esther **OR** be devoted like Ruth
- live 969 years like Methuselah **OR** become a parent at 90 like Sarah
- sit at Jesus' feet like Mary **OR** serve Jesus like Martha
- have the patience of Job **OR** have the faith of Abraham
- witness Jesus' birth **OR** witness Jesus' resurrection
- share the good news with Paul **OR** bring hope with Isaiah
- write Romans like Paul **OR** wrote Proverbs like King Solomon
- see & hear the burning bush **OR** hear Balaam's donkey speak

Bethel-Guidry College Scholarship Golf Tournament



Saturday, **Sept. 20th** is the date of the annual Bethel-Guidry Scholarship Golf Tournament. This scholarship funds a scholarship for a student from Clay County AND Towns County!!! The scholarship awards are up to \$10,000 for a 4 year degree and \$6,000 for a 2 year degree. This has been a very impactful event and provides significant assistance to students in our area.

Please help us with your donation marked: "Golf Tournament" and mail or drop by the church. We will be collecting at weekly services in a few weeks also. We also need volunteers for the day of the event.

Please, see Kevin Conley or Sanford Freeman with questions.





Spiritual Journaling Class

Spiritual Journaling, a spiritual practice that incorporates Gratitude, Paying Attention, and Reflection is a powerful tool for self-development & awareness and spiritual growth. There are many different journaling methods, and when starting out, it can be unclear where to begin, or what technique to use. If you're interested in journaling, you are invited to join in a time to learn from one another and share our journaling experiences.

Our class will be held from 10-11:30am in the Library each Thursday in September: 4, 11, 18, 25.

Please, contact Carol Smucker with questions/interest:

706-994-8104 or carolsmucker@hotmail.com

*Living every moment
with awareness of
God's abundant generosity*

The Shepherd's Voice

Grazers

Grazers, who are they?

They open their homes to share bread and wine,
with us, strangers, who know not a soul,
to eating fillet of sole,
with God's neighbors, our goal,
to share God's good works and soul.

Rain or shine finding ways
to eat shared grub
at our now family church pub.

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The Shepherd's Voice

MATT'S MINISTRY

Good Shepherd Teams with Matt's Ministry

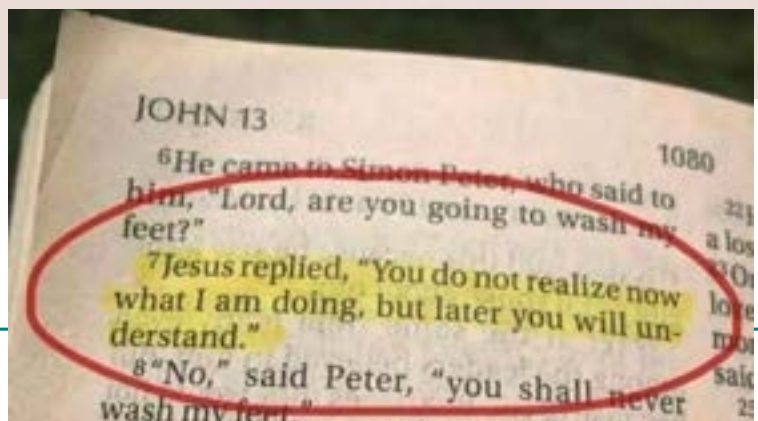
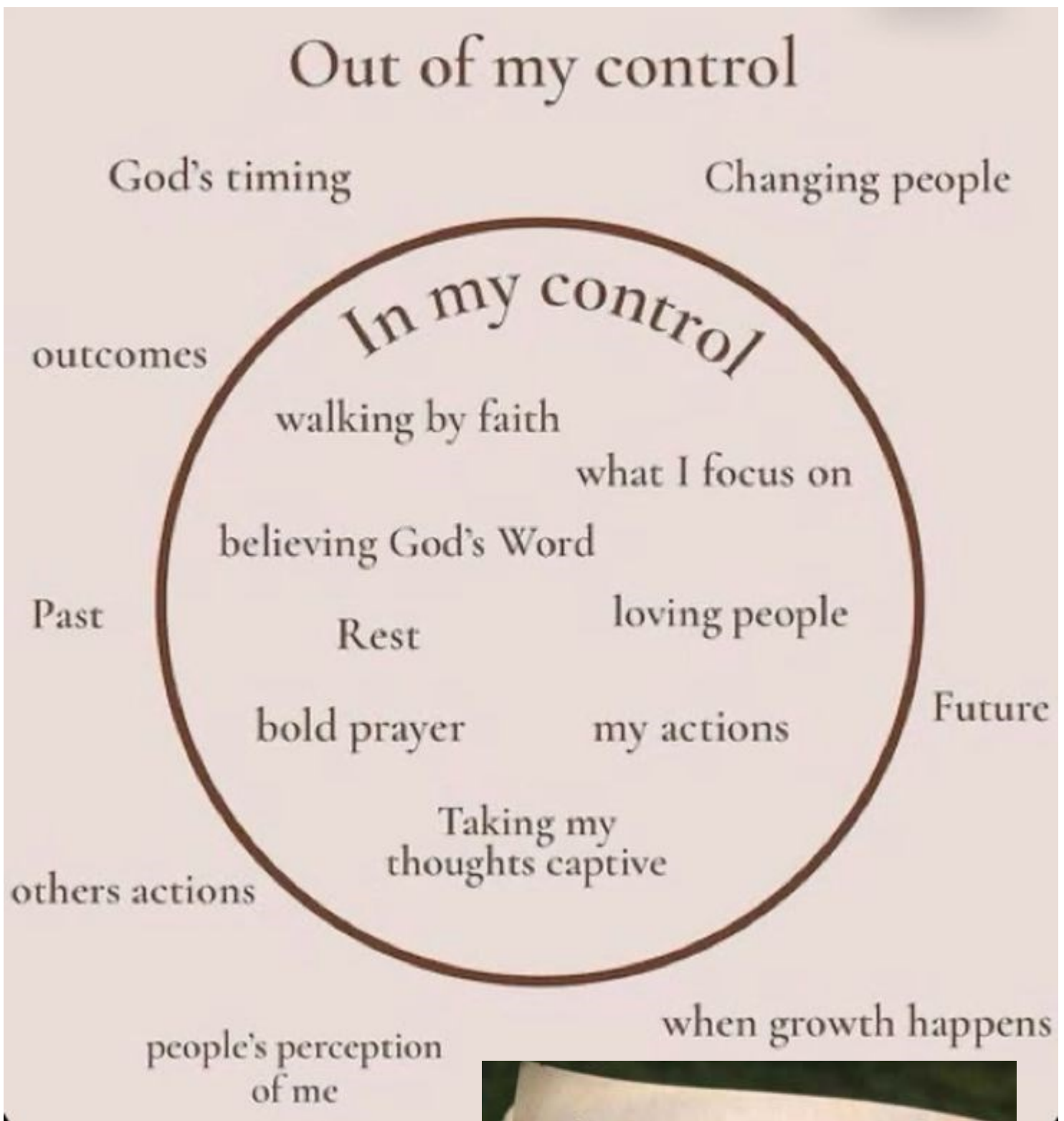
On Saturday, June 28, several of Good Shepherd's Vestry Members and others visited Matt's Ministry, ready to cook up and serve hot dogs, chips and water to Matt's Ministry clients. Matt's was started many years ago by Maggie and Steve Butler. It is a non-profit organization whose "mission is to provide supplemental nutrition, basic necessities, and love to those who struggle to make ends meet." They are open to those in need every Saturday.

That Saturday in June we served approximately 160 people and sent more 'dogs' home with those coming through the line, as well as to the patients and staff at the Clay County Care Center. Good Shepherd will be teaming up with Matt's later in the year to serve again, possibly sausage and biscuits. The clients express great appreciation, and it is an opportunity to provide care and support for individuals who are among the most vulnerable and food insecure in the community.

Many thanks to Wally Figura and his nephew, Jesse, for bringing the grill and food supplies to the location, and to Jesse, especially, who cooked up the hot dogs with a smile and without complaint all morning; to vestry member Pam Roman for shopping for the food and water and for serving that day along with Fr. Bill and Sanford Freeman; and to vestry members David Gribble, Betsi Wilson, Patti Brownlee, Phil Cox and Jose Arias who volunteered to serve for the day. Watch your church newsletters and weekly highlights, or ask your vestry members for ways you may help serve our local community in the future.



The Shepherd's Voice





Bible Study Cheat Sheet

CoffeeWithStarla.com

DISCERNMENT

What Is Discernment?

Discernment is a gift from God that helps us see clearly. It means we can tell what is true from what is false and choose what pleases Him. It's more than just making decisions, it's about keeping our hearts in line with God's will.

**Key Scriptures to Remember**

- **1 John 4:1** – “Do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”
- **James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God... and it will be given to him.”
- **Hebrews 5:14** – “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice.”

How to Cultivate Discernment

- **Seek God's Wisdom:** Start each day with prayer, asking God to open your eyes and guide your choices.
- **Immerse in Scripture:** Read and meditate on the Bible regularly. It is our ultimate source of truth, and every decision must align with its teachings.
- **Listen to the Holy Spirit:** Pay close attention to that gentle prompting as you pray and study the Word.
- **Gather Godly Counsel:** Talk with trusted believers who can offer guidance rooted in Scripture.
- **Practice Reflection:** Look back on your past decisions to see how God has directed you, ensuring that all your choices honor His Word.

Practical Tips for Everyday Life

- When faced with a choice, pause and ask, “What does Scripture say about this?”
- Write down insights or verses that speak to your situation.
- Discuss your decisions with a friend or mentor who knows the Word well.
- Remember that discernment is a journey, practice it daily and trust that God is refining your judgment.

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
ALL CAP NAMES
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

**BE STILL
AND KNOW
THAT I AM
GOD**

~>>>> PSALM 135:4 <<<<<<

Names of God

In the Bible



ABRA: Father

ADONAI: Lord Master

ALPHA AND OMEGA: The Beginning and End

ATTIYQ YOUM: The Ancient of Days

CHRISTOS: The Anointed One

EL CHAY: Living God

EL CHUWL: The God Who Gave You Birth

EL DEAH: The God of Knowledge

EL ELYON: The God Most High

EL GIBHOR: The Mighty God

EL OLAM: The Everlasting God

EL ROI: The God Who Sees

EL SHADDAI: God Almighty

ELOHIM: The Creator

IMMANUEL: God With Us

JEHOVAH (YAHWEH): The Self-Existent One

Jehovah-BORE: The Lord Creator

Jehovah-JIREH: The Lord Our Provider

Jehovah-MKADDESH: The Lord Who Sanctifies

Jehovah-NISSI: The Lord Our Banner

Jehovah-RAPHA: The Lord Our Healer

Jehovah-ROHI: The Lord Our Shepherd

Jehovah-SABBAOTH: The Lord of Hosts

Jehovah-SHALOM: The Lord Is Peace

Jehovah-SHAMMAH: The Lord Is There

Jehovah-TSIDKENU: The Lord Our Righteousness

Jehovah-TSURI: The Lord Our Rock

JESUS: The Lord Saves

LOGOS: The Word

MA'ON: Our Dwelling Place

MESSIAH: The Anointed One



The Shepherd's Voice

Notes from our Financial Statements for June 2025

Income Statement

Income received for June	\$38,553
<u>Expenses for June</u>	<u>\$39,319</u>
Net Income/(Loss) for June	\$ (766)
Total Income for the Year	\$197,230
<u>Total Expenses for the Year</u>	<u>\$213,092</u>
Net Income/(Loss) for the Year	(\$15,862)
<u>Funds due from MOF for windows</u>	<u>\$5,919</u>
Net Income/Loss after adjustments	(\$9,943)

Account Balances

UCBI Operating Account (Checking)	\$66,572
UCBI Petty Cash	\$ 1,054
UCBI Restricted Accounts (Was "Dental Fund")	\$ 19,249
Investment funds at Edward Jones	
Operating Funds Money Market (30)	\$123,917
B&G Scholarship Money Market (60)	\$127,206
Camp Henry (62)	\$ 4,020
Capital Reserve Money Market (61)	\$ 41,628
HVAC Reserve (59) Closed	\$ 00000
Rector Sabbatical Money Market (54)	\$ 5,038
Mountain of Faith Endowment Fund	\$237,357



Celebrate Good Times!!!

Birthdays in August

Scott Farnsworth	8/1
John Notchie	8/1
Jim Redmond	8/1
Bruce Beall	8/2
Meg Gring Whitley	8/3
Barb Lanwermyer	8/4
Chuck Underwood	8/4
Bill Clark	8/7
Signe Ehrhart	8/7
Jan Chatterton	8/10
Gayle Graziano	8/10
David Hordequin	8/10
Andrew Jones	8/10
Frederic Whitley	8/10
Candy List	8/11
Mary Anne Koos	8/13
Lynn Kirby	8/15
Barbara Hansen	8/17
Becky Underwood	8/17
Furie Soles	8/18
Bob Kolar	8/21
Bev Larson	8/21
Bill Breedlove	8/23
Barb Field	8/24
Janet Beall	8/25
Mary Ackerly	8/26
Ginia Wood	8/29
Don Roman	8/31



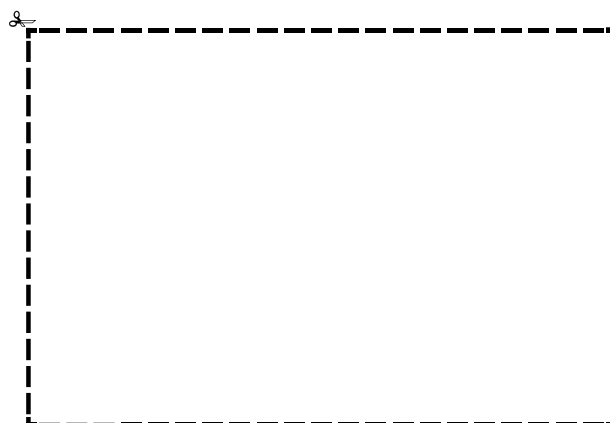
Anniversaries in August

Joe & Elizabeth Rybicki	8/2
Gil & Amy Nicolson	8/4
Lou & Barb Lanwermyer	8/8
Rick & Sharon Sanderson	8/10
Craig & Becky Underwood	8/11
Pat & Candy List	8/17
Jim & Barb Redmond	8/17
Dorman & Liz McLamb	8/18
Robert & Shirley Stillwell	8/19
Robin & Mel Halfon	8/22



Directory Updates:

Please note the following changes in your directory.



Please email Amanda in the church office with any birthday or anniversary updates:

gsepicsopal@brmemc.net



The Shepherd's Voice

Lectionary Readings for *August*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

[Hosea 11:1-11](#)
[Psalms 107:1-9, 43](#)
[Colossians 3:1-11](#)
[Luke 12:13-21](#)

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

[Isaiah 1:1, 10-20](#)
[Psalms 50:1-8, 23-24](#)
[Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#)
[Luke 12:32-40](#)

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Isaiah 5:1-7](#)
[Psalms 80:1-2, 8-18](#)
[Hebrews 11:29-12:2](#)
[Luke 12:49-56](#)

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

[Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)
[Psalms 71:1-6](#)
[Hebrews 12:18-29](#)
[Luke 13:10-17](#)

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

[Jeremiah 2:4-13](#)
[Psalms 81:1, 10-16](#)
[Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16](#)
[Luke 14:1, 7-14](#)



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