

THE MESSENGER

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CELEBRATING A CAREER OF SERVICE

The Pastoral Care and Experiencing God ministries hosted a lovely retirement luncheon in November for Suzi Drury, who has dutifully served the church for the last 26 years. Following the December 14th service, we will celebrate her career of service in pastoral care and ministry to our community with a special brunch in Spencer Hall. Please join us in paying tribute to Suzi for all that she's done for our parish!



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AN INTERVIEW WITH FATHER BILL BREEDLOVE

By Asher Bloete Menke

The Messenger sat down this month with our former priest Bill Breedlove. For anyone ever traveling through the mountains of North Carolina, he'd love to see you stop by. Let's see what he's up to now:

Tell us about your current church home. Good Shepherd is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains town of Hayesville (NC), population 420. It's beautiful here, and many of our church members first come to the area for vacation and the several arts centers. We're about two hours north of the Atlanta suburbs, two hours east of Chattanooga, two hours west of Asheville, and two hours south of Knoxville. We are primarily a congregation of wise, active, and compassionate retired folks who are generous toward outreach, and who deeply care for each other. I have been blessed to serve this bunch of saints for over twelve years now.

What are some of the biggest things in your life since you've moved away? A couple big ones: My wife Susan died suddenly and unexpectedly four years ago. Hug your loved ones. Tell them you love them. Life can be tragic. And then God brought Melanie into my life. We were married in October 2024, a week after Hurricane Helene tore through the area just east of us.

When you were here, your kids were still teenagers. Where are they now? Talley now lives in Athens, GA. She had previously served as missionary in the Philippines and Seattle. Talley works for Cigna and lives with her partner Chandler.

Mary is a property manager in Atlanta. She manages an office tower and multi-use property called New City Market. Last April, she and her fiancé Tiger were married on the coast of Southern France.



FR. BILL BREEDLOVE PROFILE, cont'd.

How have you seen your church grow and change during your ministry there? The church is always growing and changing. What I see at Good Shepherd is that are people empowered to do ministry. I get to say “yes” to a lot of good ideas and then help them succeed.

What were some of your most meaningful or memorable moments during your time at Saint Michael's? There are so many. Being ordained by Bishop Wolfe at St. Michael's. Serving alongside Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori. Men's retreats at the Monastery and Ozark float trips. Bigger Bible School. Holy Week. More than moments are the people starting with the great generosity of Karen and Swede Beckstrom allowing me to stay with them for weeks before my family arrived. The staff were just the best and I learned so much from them all. There were so many children and young people, and I have seen them grow up via your Facebook posts.

What are you most excited about in your calling? This is a fun bunch who love each other, who welcome all, and who want to make a difference for the Lord.



Any advice for your former parishioners back in Mission, Kansas?

I use some paraphrase of this quote from Henri Frederic Amiel to end our Eucharist: “Life is short and we never have too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind.” Be kind to all. Offer blessings to everyone.

A CHAT WITH FR. BILL BREEDLOVE, cont'd.

What lessons from your time here at St. Michael's have you carried with you? The most important person in the world is the one standing in front of you. Each person matters.

How can we stay connected with you in your new community? We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdhayesvillenc/>

What would you like to say to the congregation as a final message? Thank you for welcoming a South Carolinian and his family. Thank you for allowing me to serve the cause of Christ alongside you for those four short years. You are all beloved children of God. Remind yourselves of that daily, because there are so many other voices trying to tell you that you are not. "Life is short . . ." Peace and love of God to all.



EXPERIENCING GOD: ADVENT PROGRAMMING

Experiencing God Invites Our Parish Family and Neighbors to a Hopeful Advent

Advent invites us in, ushers in a new liturgical year, a new opportunity to return to the

Lord and to encounter Jesus in the simple manger in Bethlehem.

Experiencing God has organized three special programs through Advent to help us recreate that manger scene in our hearts, returning Christ to the center of our lives.



Weary from the toll of this chaotic world, we long for light and love. Advent is the perfect season for our longing to slow down, create space, quiet the heart, and find rest in Christ. Perhaps you experience this longing, too. Experiencing God is offering a time in Cloud Chapel on three Thursdays in December, to pray and prepare, to wait and watch in hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming.

December 4th: Advent Invites Us In: Immerse Yourself in the Hope of Waiting (*poetry*)

December 11th: Lean into the Season of Anticipation: Songs of Hope (*Advent hymn sing-along*)

December 18th: Approaching Bethlehem: Hope for Our Shared Journey (*meaningful traditions*)

Let the hope of Advent fill your home, your heart, and your family's traditions!

Walk With Us On This Advent Journey, and Discover the Gift of Waiting

**Thursdays at 10:00 in Cloud Chapel
December 4, 11, and 18**



PARISH YOUTH OUT IN THE WORLD

Another installment of, “What ever happened to so-and-so?” from our youth program. More updates to come next month! December’s youth alumni are Paige Henderson and Morgan Anderson.



PAIGE HENDERSON I’m attending Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, studying marketing at the Broad College of Business. I am involved in the Residential Business Community, which is composed of business students living together in an area of our dorm set aside for us. I am also involved in the Michigan State Marketing Association.

Additionally, I joined the Michigan State women’s club lacrosse team. I’m looking forward to being home over the holidays.

MORGAN ANDERSON I’ve been having lots of fun at Colorado State University! My sorority and class work keep me busy and I’ve loved exploring Fort Collins and meeting new people!

Definitely missing my St. Michael’s community and church services though!



MIQRA REGISTRATION IS OPEN

MIQRA (meek-rah): a weekend retreat for youth that focuses on the Bible and allows teens to discover what's in it, why they should care, and how to read it.

Saturday, January 17, 1 pm – Monday, January 19, 11 am, 2026

Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Students may choose to stay overnight or come just during the day.

Grades 6-12; fee of \$75. Scholarships available, price increases after January 3.

Registration online [available here](#)

The youth will read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 72 hours! The reading is voluntary and participants take turns reading in shifts around the clock. So many fun things happen at MIQRA! They play wacky games like Church Commandos and Nave Olympics. There is a movie night. They worship with the Mustard Seeds, our diocesan youth band. Participants attend engaging workshops on various biblical topics and hear clergy speak about the Bible. Those who attend also meet with a small group several times to make friends and talk about what they're discovering about the Bible through the event.

Participants sleep on the floor of the Sunday School rooms. Sleeping rooms are divided by gender and age, as well as a non-binary sleeping room option. Attendees bring sleeping bags and pillows, although some also bring camping mats or air mattresses.

More info: Karen Schlabach at kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org.



FALL EVENTS

PHOTOS OF RECENT EVENTS IN SPENCER HALL



THE ST. MICHAEL'S VESTRY
WANTS YOU!



Nominations for the Vestry are now open for the upcoming year. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of your church's leadership team, contact Senior Warden Will Henderson at whhenderson@gmail.com

The Vestry oversees the parish's finances, property, and administrative matters, working alongside the rector to support the church's mission and ministries.

SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER EVENTS

- December 6 Bishop's Final Walkabout & Bible Study, 10-noon
- December 7 Blessing of the Pledges
Advent Fest, 4-6:00PM
Lessons & Carols Service, 4-6:00PM
- December 10 Art Exhibit & Reception for Michael Farley 5-7:00PM
- December 14 Farewell Brunch for Deacon Suzi
(after the service)
- December 19 Men's Christmas Gathering, 2-6:00PM
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services, 4 & 10:00PM
- December 25 Christmas Day Service, 10:00AM
- December 24 - January 2 Church Office Closed

