

The Shepherd's Voice

August 2014



Services

Every Sunday:

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:15 am Adult Spiritual Formation

10:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nursery available)

11:00 am Children's Church (Children go to 10:45 service first)

Tuesday:

7:00 pm Healing with Soaking Prayer

Wednesday:

Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer

The Country Fare Is Coming



The annual Country Fare is coming soon. Friday, September 5 and Saturday, September 6 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Country Fares have been held at Good Shepherd since our founding. Country Fare is at the heart of our community outreach programs and is a huge part of who we are as a church. It is our largest outreach fund raising event of the year.

As you know, all proceeds from the Country Fare are donated to area charitable organizations. These contributions really make a difference to the local people that they serve. Some of these organizations provide food to the hungry, housing to the homeless, comfort to the abused and clothing for the children. All works we are called to do by Jesus.

Your contributions of items, clothing and food for our flea market and your volunteering of time make this all possible.

We are accepting donations as follows:

Gently used and clean merchandise please. No TV's or computers unless flat screen.



Drop off Dates for merchandise (no furniture yet) and clothing are:

- Monday, August 25 thru Saturday, August 30 from 9:00 am to noon
- Monday, September 1 and Tuesday September 2 from 9:00 am to noon.

Furniture and large/heavy items only on:

- Wednesday, September 3 and Thursday, September 4 from 9:00 am to noon

Country Fare Bakery Needs Your Donations

Last year, our bakery donations were very low. So, we really need your baking help. Brownies, cookies, and bread are big sellers. We also need quiche which we sell for lunch. Contact Pam Roman or Susan Hoffman with any questions. Donations are due by Thursday, September 4.



VOLUNTEERS are the lifeblood of The Country Fare.

It takes an army of volunteers to make Country Fare work. Old folks, the youth, those new to good Shepherd, seasoned veterans, all can participate. We need "worker bees" for all aspects of The Country Fare from helping to set up tables...to bakers and food workers.....to parking attendants.....to sorters and pricers.....to sale workers and cashiers.....to people to help with take down.....to merchandise donators and shoppers and more. Guaranteed you will have a great time and get to know your fellow parishioners better. Plus you will feel good about helping the poor in our community.

Please sign up on the Volunteer sign found in the hallway or narthex. Thank you for your support!!!

Christian Education

Sundays at 9:15 am:

Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God – A 12 part DVD-based Living the Questions curriculum. First 6 DVD sessions – September 14 through October 19 in the Redbud Room

Join preeminent New Testament scholars, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today. This course is facilitated by Dave and Carol Smucker.

Episcopal Traditions for Children and Families – September 14 through October 19 in the Undercroft

The course is intended as a shared experience between children and their families. Moms, dads, grandparents and other adult family members are invited to share this time with their

An Episcopal Journey

Just what is it that makes us Episcopalian? Is it the way the church building is laid out or how pretty our gardens are? Is it our mission? Is it our business structure? Maybe it's our vestry or our good food? Aha, coffee! Why do we choose to be a part of this church in this place? People? Music? Sunday School? Traditions? The processions and vestments? The fountain? My parents came here? These are not silly questions. They may, in part, be classed as frivolous; but all can be a part of being an Episcopalian.

For me, the way we do worship is so important. The liturgy is what distinguishes us and makes us shine. We are keepers of the Prayer Book. Anything that enhances our understanding of Liturgy enriches our worship experience and makes us feel more whole.

Many years ago I wondered what it would be like to experience the entire annual cycle of our Liturgy in a purposeful way. In speaking with others who have done this I found their journeys seemed to be very fulfilling. I put the idea on a back burner, to do sometime. During the last few months I have discerned that "sometime is now."

children as we explore some of our Episcopal traditions. We will also spend time playing games, getting to know each other and building community. This course is taught by Fr Bill and Susan Morgan.

Lectionary Discussion – David Hourdequin facilitates this discussion of the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday.

Wednesdays:

Bible 101 – September 17 through October 22 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft

This course is an overview of the whole Bible appropriate for beginners and others who want to refresh their understanding of this book. Questions we may address include: Who wrote the Bible? What is the Bible about? How is the Bible organized? How should I read the Bible? Why are there so many versions of the Bible and which one is best? What are some of the key places, events, and peoples of the Bible? Your questions are also welcome. This course is taught by Fr Bill.

I spoke with Fr. Bill to get some support and help so I could perform the task well. I didn't want to miss anything. He was most supportive of my effort and has made some suggestions to make the experience more meaningful. A check list became essential, along with an outline of my path. In formulating this plan it occurred to me that others may wish to join me on this journey.

This is not a class. It will mean that you make your own plan to see and participate in "it all" for one year. We will have an opportunity to lunch with Fr. Bill 3 or 4 times during the year to ask questions and share our experience informally. There is a pamphlet available that explains the journey in greater detail. Pamphlets are in the Narthex, Hallway and Parish Hall. The sign-up sheet is in the Hallway (so we can get additional materials to you and let you know when we will be meeting for lunch.)

If you are curious, pick up the pamphlet and prayerfully consider taking the journey with me. The Episcopal Journey starts on November 30, 2014, the first Sunday in Advent. For additional information/questions contact Kathy Wright, 828 -837-6703.

Conspiring Blessing

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God spoke all that exists into existence. After each time God spoke and something came into existence, God saw and blessed what was. This creation account is not meant to be a scientific account, but theological. It tells us about God. It is God's revelation of Godself and who we are in relationship with God. It tells us about the importance of the act of speaking and blessing. In church, we often talk about offering a blessing as giving the benediction. The final blessing for our Daily Office and Holy Eucharist liturgies are benedictions. That is, they are "good words spoken," which is what benediction means. When God speaks, God breathes out blessing. Each time God says, "Let there be ..." something good is expired into being. The goodness of what exists is confirmed when the breath of God expires the words "it is good." When God created humans in God's image and gave us life, that same breath of blessing was spoken into us. The breath of blessing that God exhaled is what God used to give us life, to animate and inspire our being. Made in God's image, we are vessels of that same breath of blessing. Gifted with this breath of blessing, we conspire with God in speaking blessing into the world.



It seems to me that so much of what we hear reported about the world around us is the absence of blessing. We hear instead bad news about misbehaving people, bad news about someone's economic condition, bad news about someone's health. Bad news about our church and political leaders. Bad news about the leaders of business. Bad news from nature or about the environment. Bad news from abroad. Bad news about bad people who seem intent on doing bad things to our nation. All this bad news certainly can lead to a sense of pessimism if not outright fear. One might wonder where is God's blessing in all this. I suspect it might be closer than we realize. In fact, it might be at the tip of our tongues. As those created in the image of God and blessed with the breath of blessing, we should speak more good words. It would probably do all of us some good, and some of us a lot of good.

May God bless us as we speak blessing into a world that needs to hear a good word.

Fr Bill+

Confirmation, Reaffirmation, and Reception

In the Episcopal Church, full membership requires that one not only be baptized but also confirmed. All Good Shepherd members interested in receiving the sacrament of confirmation at the Bishop's visitation on September 7th are asked to contact Father Bill or the church office as soon as possible. Confirmed Episcopalians who are returning to active participation in the church after some time away, may wish to have their confirmation vow reaffirmed, while those who have been confirmed in either the Roman Catholic or Lutheran Churches, may be received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop at this visitation. Please contact Father Bill or the church office to sign up or for more information.

Financial Update (June 30, 2014)

2014 Operating Account:

Income YTD: \$184,117

Expenditures YTD: \$185,135

Balance in Operating Account: -\$4,815

Receipts for Debt Reduction — \$16,017

Balance on mortgage with bank — \$225,762

Balance on loan from diocese — \$16,665

Balance on loan from Mt. of Faith — \$25,000

Prayer Referral and Confidentiality

Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain is made up of about sixty Good Shepherd members who wish to pray daily for sick or troubled people and have agreed to keep that information private. Prayer Chain requests are sent out as needed, with as little or as much information as the referring person wishes to provide. That is why it is particularly important that those referring individuals obtain permission from that person, or his or her family, before referring someone to the Prayer Chain. By ensuring that this step has been taken, we can preserve confidentiality and comply with the wishes of our parishioners and others referred to the Prayer Chain.

Prayers of the People: It is also important to specify whether or not you wish an individual's name to appear in the Prayers of the People on Sundays, which is considered a public or "print" venue. The first names of those appearing in the Prayer Chain are automatically included in the Prayers of the People, unless you tell us otherwise.

Intercessory Prayer List: The Intercessory Prayer List, which is sent to Prayer Chain members weekly, with hard copies on the small table in the narthex, is a list which was introduced during the past year. It contains the names of those acutely ill, as well as those whose illness is more long-term. It also contains a section for births, birthdays, anniversaries and deaths, as well as suggested prayers from the Book of Common Prayer.

Black Intercessory Notebook: The names written in the intercessory black notebook, which is left on or near the lectern in the narthex, are used only for the Wednesday healing services and do not appear on any other prayer list.

Since there are different prayer lists, which serve a variety of needs, we hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please call the Pastoral Care Coordinator at: 828-389-3397.

Let's Go Out for Lunch

Into church then out of church. You have a few minutes to talk to your many friends and then don't see them till the following week. Do you really know what is happening with them? Wouldn't sitting down with them over a wonderful lunch be a much better experience than a quick chat?

An ever changing group of your Good Shepherd friends meets at a local restaurant and finds out what has, is or will be happening in each other's lives. We have eaten at the Blue Otter, Bowl of Asia, Brothers, and the Chop House.

Monthly, a sign-up sheet is hung in the parish hallway for all that are interested in getting together for lunch. On August 22, we will go to Café Portofino in Hiawassee at 12:00. Join us by signing up in the hallway and enjoy a great meal with great friends.



Founders' Day Dinner

The Adult Formation and Parish Life Committees are sponsoring a Founders' Day Dinner with guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Bruce Morgan on August 23 at 6:00 pm. Dr. Morgan's presentation will focus on how we as a parish might work together and with other denominations in our two counties to address the needs of children from a social justice perspective. His presentation will be followed by questions and answers. Dr. Morgan is a retired minister and an adjunct professor of religion at Brenau University in Gainesville GA.

Dinner will be a Low Country Shrimp Boil. Reservations will be required for the event because of a need to plan seating space and food. Look for more details in the bulletin and weekly Highlights and sign up in the hallway.

Why Founders' Day? Good Shepherd was organized as a mission congregation on September 9, 1955. The committees are planning this as an annual event to kickoff the fall programs and to celebrate our heritage.

Oldtimers – This month we feature Barbara (birthday August 17) and David (birthday January 15) Hansen

I was born in Fall River, Wisconsin, blessed with a gentle, benign, safe and caring family and community which enveloped and nurtured me as though I was a special person. Now that I gratefully reflect, this comfortable childhood circumstance provided a good basis for my life that, despite some turmoil, has been satisfying.

After high school, I went off to Lawrence College in Appleton, WI, which trimmed off any remnant of ego-flab. After a year and a half there, I transferred to UW, Madison, where I happily regained some sense of self-worth. It was there that Dave and I found each other as we participated in the campus-wide "Humorology" competition. Dave was a performer while I was a writer/director of the skit.

Dave grew up in Green Bay, a life-long Packers fan. Romance flourished, but Dave had to return to the army immediately following his graduation. We married the year I graduated. Dave left two weeks later for a year in Korea and I attempted to teach English at Shawano H.S. When Dave returned, he entered UW Law School but had to abandon that after one semester, because we were about to become parents!

We moved to Columbus where Scott was born. My new life was as wife, mother and active member of community and church. Before Beth was born three and a half years later, we bought our first home, an obsolete 100 year old Victorian house requiring lots of heavy-duty improvements, but renting out the upstairs apartment made the mortgage payments. I filled in as English teacher as needed and did a fair amount of substitute teaching. Friends persuaded me to teach beginning piano to their children and I was also busy as accompanist for band and vocal students.

Our dear beloved Scott died in a car crash just before his 20th birthday. We crashed, too. I was saved by the local Roman Catholic Parochial School. They hired me to teach Jr. High English. This demanded my full attention, surrounding me with children who were very much alive. Through the Christian love of parents and faculty there, my broken spirit was nourished.

When Beth, our steady life-support, left for college in Florida one and a half years later, Dave and I recognized that we required a

new venue. Numbed, but assuredly led by God, we kicked the life we knew, left the strengths of my dad and incredibly faithful friends, and set off for a world unknown in Atlanta, GA of all places!

We knew not one person there, we knew absolutely nothing about the business, but we trusted and we recovered. Now imagine this: We opened a flower shop in a space formerly a shoe store. We were totally unfamiliar with the city or how to go about arranging or selling flowers. Although our meager savings was long gone, we stuck out our scrawny necks, squared our chins, held hands and we leaped.

Believe it or not, the parachute actually opened...but only because we trusted. It was an all-consuming business for 13 years. It was exhausting. We were blessed. Not only did the shop thrive, but our Beth married the son-in-law of our dreams and they produced for us the only three perfect grandchildren on the planet (subject to debate by the other grandparents reading this!).

As proud great-grandparents, Dave and I know we could not have retired to any better place than on Lake Chatuge in the Smoky Mountains, Hiawassee, GA. Although we sort of just drove through here by mistake, we found more natural beauty, more natural friends, more natural evidence of the best in this life than we believed could be had. This is not luck. Nor is it due us for our great wisdom or reward for hard work. I do believe in God's grace.

Hopefully I may live here in Appalachia until I return in another form to the place where I began, as I cannot believe that for me there could be a better place to begin or a better place to end these lives on earth.

Taken from Barb Hansen's autobiography. You can read the full version in the green binder in the GS library.



Newcomers — This month we feature Vicky (birthday December 27) and Geoff (birthday August 15) Schwartz



Geoff and Vicky Schwartz became members of Good Shepherd about three months after they permanently moved to their home in the Nantahala Community. Prior to that they lived in Tallahassee, Florida for 37 years and were active members of St. John's during those years.

Geoff has practiced law since graduating from FSU's College of Law in 1980, at which time he also received his MBA from FSU's College of Business. He is semi-retired, and jokingly tells folks that he heads up the Tallahassee firm's branch office in Nantahala from his lower level of their home. For most of their 37 years in Tallahassee, Vicky taught special education in the public school system. During her final three years, she moved to teaching special education majors at Flagler College's campus in Tallahassee.

Both Vicky and Geoff are originally from Ohio. They lived in Marietta, Ohio at the time through Junior High School and High School, and they dated one another during Vicky's junior year and Geoff's senior year.

Family circumstances caused Geoff to move to Orlando, Florida at the end of 1964. He worked for the Ivey's Department Store Group (with its home office in Greenville, NC) for almost 12 years, during which time he received his undergraduate degree in history and economics from Florida Technological University (n/k/a The University of Central Florida). Vicky remained in Ohio and received her undergraduate degree in elementary education from Miami of Ohio and later her masters in special education from Ohio

University.

Vicky taught for six years in the public school system in the Marietta area before they renewed their relationship of 12 years prior. They married in June 1976, loaded up the U-Haul truck (including Vicky's car) and headed to Orlando. There they made final arrangements to head off in search of a law school for Geoff, see some friends, and experience the wonders of the West. After a the three-month cross country excursion in a 1974 VW bus, with sleeping bags, basic camping gear and a German Shepherd, they figured out they were pretty dadgum compatible. And so it's been for 37 years!

Vicky and Geoff have a variety of interests and hobbies, but not too many to prevent them from being on "lake time." Regular trips to Louisville are a priority.

The idea of eventually living in Western NC lodged in the back of their minds before they moved to Tallahassee. After many family summer vacations in that part of the state, the idea became an objective. The serious hunt for a future home site began in 1994. After looking at about a dozen properties, a series of unusual events brought them to the property they knew within 5 minutes was meant for them. They struck a deal on it two days later and then waited another 10 years to begin construction on their home. They feel very blessed to be experiencing every day the wonders and majesty of God's creation.

During the 7 years of coming up to their eventual home, Vicky and Geoff attended a number of churches in Macon, Cherokee, and Clay counties (including Good Shepherd). After moving to their home in 2013, they decided Good Shepherd was the church at the top of their list. Although it is about an hour drive, they selected for four primary reason: (1) it was inclusive and the people were friendly to newcomers; (2) it offered a variety of lay ministry areas without feeling pressured to get involved in any particular one; (3) it had a strong commitment to outreach; and (4) the new rector's vision for Good Shepherd, his warm personality and somewhat wacky and at times self-effacing sense of humor, and his preaching and teaching skills. Geoff and Vicky are convinced they made the right choice.

Good Shepherd Vestry Size to Change in 2015

Following several months of discussion, the vestry voted at the May 2015 meeting to change the church By-laws to reflect an increase in the number of members serving on the vestry. Beginning with the class of 2015, four new members of the parish will be elected for a total of 10 members. In 2016, four members will be elected for a total of 11 members. In 2017 and each year following four members will be elected for a total of 12 members on the vestry. All vestry members are elected for a 3-year term.

The primary focus of the discussion was providing liaisons to the many and growing ministries within the church and dividing responsibilities to additional people. Another important factor was how was to increase the diversity and participation of the parish in the vestry.

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

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Save the Date

Mark the following dates on your calendar. More information will be available closer to the time of the event.

- August 30 – Grounds Clean up
- September 5 & 6 – Country Fare
- September 7 – Bishop Taylor visits
- September 10 – Red Cross Blood drive
- October 4, 10:00 am – Blessing of the Animals