



The Shepherd's Voice

December 2015

Services

Every 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. Turner Guidry
Deacon

Advent Event

The Second Annual Advent Event is happening on Saturday, December 5 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We had a blast last year and things are shaping up to be as much or more fun this year. Learn to make a Danish Christmas Basket, an Advent Wreath, and fun things from paper. Assemble a teacup planter for a gift, braid a key chain, and decorate gingerbread cookies. Special for the youngest among us is making paper chains and decorating the Parish

Hall with them. This is a free event for the whole family; so round up the kids and grands, borrow the neighbors kids and invite the neighbors while you are at it. There are light refreshments, holiday music, a Therapy Dog for those of you in need of therapy this close to Christmas, and lots of smiles.

If anyone wants to help please contact Kathy Wright, 828-837-6703 or kathywright259@gmail.com

Christmas Cantata

Good Shepherd's Chancel Choir will perform a Christmas Cantata at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 19, in the Nave with a cookie exchange to follow in the Parish Hall. Please bring cookies to share and

BRING FRIENDS! We'll have sharing bags available. Contact Kathy Rarey 502 525 7256 or kprarey@yahoo.com.

Christmas Care Program

This Christmas season, Good Shepherd is partnering with the Hinton Center and other local churches to provide winter clothing to approximately 260 area children. Your generous monetary donation to the Christmas Care Program now is welcomed. When you make a donation we ask that you place an ornament on the tree in the narthex as a

representation of your gift to children in need. Let us decorate our tree and show the love of Jesus to these children. Please make your check payable to Good Shepherd and note Christmas Care Program in the memo. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 20. See Fr. Bill for more information.

Schedule of Christmas Services

Blue Christmas

Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm (This is in place of the Soaking Prayer service.)

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Christmas Day

10:00 am

Christmas Cantata

December 27, 10:00 am (only one service that day)

Weekday services

The Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, December 23 has been cancelled. The services on December 29 and 30 will be held as usual.

The Shepherd's Voice

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.
- Theology on Tap—Tuesdays at 5:00-6:30 pm in the Undercroft through December 15

Theology

noun the 'ol o gy \thē-'ä-lə-jē\

the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; especially : the study of God and of God's relation to the world.

on tap

1. Ready to be drawn; in a tapped cask: beer on tap.
2. Available for immediate use; ready: extra personnel on tap.

An open conversation and pondering of all things concerning God and our lives as God's people. You are invited to bring a favorite beverage to enjoy and to share.

- Higher Calling is a men's discussion group focused on becoming better husbands, fathers, friends and associates by helping each other grow in our relationships with God, ourselves, others, and the environment in which we live. Please contact David Hourdequin at 828-421-6216 or at drh@dremy.com if you're interested in joining this group.
- Fit 4 God is a healthy lifestyle men's group, based on "The Daniel Plan" by Rick Warren, working together to set and achieve life goals in the areas of: Faith, Food, Fitness and Focus. The group gathers at Deacon Turner Guidry's home at 5:30 PM each Thursday (just prior to The Brotherhood of the Fire) for approximately 30 to 45 minutes to share progress, study the principles of "The Daniel Plan", and pray together. All men are welcome to join. And, we will support, encourage and facilitate starting a similar group for the ladies.

Upcoming

- The Artist's Way-A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity, A Course in Discovering and Recovering Your Creative Self Beginning on Sunday, January 3, at 9:15, for 12 Sundays.
 - ◇ Creativity is a gift to the human soul passed to us all by The Creator.

- ◇ Art is a spiritual transaction.
- ◇ Artists are visionaries.
- ◇ Creativity is fun and energizing.
- ◇ Art is an act of faith, and we practice practicing it.

Are you someone who wishes to be more creative in your personal life or in any of the arts? If the ideas above resonate with you, please join us as we explore new paths to expand our creative lives. This journey will be centered around a book by Julia Cameron which provides insights and exercises to guide this journey.

The book for the class is *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, by Julia Cameron. It is available from Amazon for \$10.10. Each class participant will need their own copy of the book. Please read pages 1-40 prior to the first class. Subsequent weekly readings will be shorter. (NOTE: Cameron has written several other books which have *The Artist's Way* as part of their title; be sure you purchase the one with the subtitle specified above.)

The class will be largely a discussion class, facilitated by Mary Stewart King, Jean Gora, Barb Redmond, and Jane Oliver.

- Women's Retreat — On the Road to Joy: Discovering God's Presence in the Midst of Conflict, will be February 19-20, 2016 at the Hinton Center. The retreat leaders, Kathy Quinn Anderson and Susan Flynn Boruff, are the founders of Take Twelve Today, a ministry dedicated to helping others deepen their relationship with God through prayer.

At this time there is one house reserved with 13 rooms available, each with a queen sized bed and private bath. Rooms are booked on a first come basis and may be shared. With sufficient demand for overnight housing a second house may become available. Please sign up in the hallway and make your payment as soon as possible to reserve your room. Contact Fr. Bill for more information.

Overnight cost — \$100 (\$50 program and meals fee + \$50 room fee)

Commuter cost — \$50 (program and meals fee)

One Body in Christ

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

It may be in our baptismal liturgy that we are most reminded that we are one body in Christ. And it may be in that same liturgy that we are most reminded of our particular Episcopal ecclesiology; that is, our way of being church. There is one body. When we look at the Diocese of Western North Carolina of which we are part, we see that we at Good Shepherd are part of one body spread across twenty eight counties, gathered in sixty three worshiping communities and six summer chapels. We own two conference centers; one at Lake Logan and another at Valle Crucis. The body also contains the Deerfield Retirement Community and Christ School. Though in many locations, we are one body guided by one Spirit under one God and Father. Bishop Taylor reminded us of this oneness at the recently concluded 94th Annual Convention of our diocese. The context of his comments was the diocesan budget and giving to the mission of The Episcopal Church, that body of one hundred and nine dioceses spread across several nations and continents. He reminded us that the thirteen percent of the diocesan budget designated to the National Church for 2016 was not something given to "them." We are "them." There is one body and one Spirit.

With that in mind, here is some of the good news from our 2016 diocesan budget. Pledged income is up \$52,000 and total income is up \$80,000. Total income for the diocese is projected at around \$1.7 million. Our children and youth, those from Murphy to Gastonia, from Boone to Saluda, will benefit from a \$10,000 increase in funding to Camp Henry. Our Campus and Youth Ministries combined will receive

over \$230,000 in 2016. We will spend over \$54,000 on Justice and Outreach with \$30,000 committed to New Mission Initiatives. In other funding, Kairos West, a community organizing initiative in West Asheville will receive \$20,000 while our ministries for Congregational Vitality and Support for Small Parishes will receive \$44,000 and \$40,000 respectively. Church of the Advocate, part of our ministry to the homeless will receive over \$21,000 in 2016. Lastly, I note that our Hispanic Mission will be funded at almost \$200,000 which is an increase of \$65,000 and now supports two full-time priests serving the growing Latino/a population in our diocese. As you can see, we are dedicated to supporting both the future of the church and those less fortunate while also supporting new mission initiatives. All of this is our work. There is one body and one Spirit and we support the mission of our diocese by a 10% pledge of our income. This is not money we could have used for ourselves but money that is being used for ourselves.



The same spirit of oneness should be the spirit found in our giving to Good Shepherd. Our budget includes expenses for personnel and administrative costs, buildings and utilities and supplies, the mortgage and insurance, and funds our many ministries including outreach and children, healing and pastoral care, adult formation and parish life, worship and music, and more. This budget belongs to all of us, serves all of us, and requires contributions from all of us.

Grace and peace,
Fr Bill+

Servers for Christmas Services

Blue Christmas (December 22)

Eucharistic Ministers	Elizabeth Rybicki, Amy Nicolson
Readers	Carolyn Cline-Griffiths
	Beth Hitchcock
	Joe Rybicki
	Harry Baughn
	Sue Kelley
	Rachel Baughn

Christmas Eve

Eucharistic Ministers	4:00 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
	Kathryn Hoyt	Georgia Bethel
	Judy Steinbauer	David Hourdequin
Lector	TBA	Bev Larson
Intercessor	TBA	Dave Larson
Acolyte	TBA	TBA
Torchbearers	TBA	TBA
Ushers		Elizabeth Rybicki
		Joe Rybicki

Christmas Day

Eucharistic Ministers	10:00 am
	Kathy Wright, Mary Anne Kooš

The Shepherd's Voice

Nominations for Vestry

The nominating committee consisting of Carolyn Cline-Griffiths, Deanna Dubose, Guy Hunter, Chuck Van Gorder and Elmer Wilson is now soliciting input for the elections of vestry members for 2016. 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 27.

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 shall be requested, the Parish office issuing the ballot shall mark the requester's name from the master list of Parish members eligible to vote, and such person shall not be permitted to vote in person without first surrendering the absentee ballot in blank.
2. Absentee ballots must have been physically received in the Parish office not later than Friday noon preceding the last Sunday of regular voting.

3. An absentee ballot shall be sealed in a plain envelope without the voter's name appearing. The envelope containing the ballot shall 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 shall be opened as soon as the ballot boxes are closed, and their count shall be supervised in the same manner as regular ballots.

The vestry election will take place on January 10 and 17 after both services. Absentee ballots may be requested now but will not be mailed until January 4. Absentee ballots must arrive back in the church office by noon on January 15.

Remember the Church Staff for Christmas

Your vestry requests that you place your gift in the collection plate using the envelopes in the bulletin or the narthex or send it to the church to the attention of Jim Reynolds by December 20.

Annual Report deadline

Good Shepherd's annual meeting will be held on January 24, 2016. 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 2015. 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.

Grazers Christmas Party

All Grazers (past, current, and just curious) are invited for an adult only dinner on Friday, December 4 at 6:00 pm at Brasstown Valley Resort. The event will be in the Cedar Knob Room. You can have their popular seafood buffet or order from the menu. The price is \$26.95/person to be individually ticketed. Drinks are available and crab legs are available for an extra \$10. If you plan to attend you need to contact Elizabeth Dickey at 210-482-0372 or Ray Dickey at 210-219

-7784 or rldickeyjr@hotmail.com.

If you have photos of events or "family happenings" from the last year or two, please email those along with written comments about the photo rldickeyjr@hotmail.com. These photos will be included in a slideshow at the event. The deadline to submit photos is November 29.

Prayer Shawl and Fiber Art Group Luncheon

The Prayer Shawl and Fiber Art Group will be having a Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 7 at noon in the undercroft. The luncheon will be catered by In Sister's Kitchen. The cost is \$14.00 per

person. Everyone needs to RSVP by Monday, November 30 to either Beth Hitchcock at 828-389-4445 or Meliss Czarnecki at 828-389-1172. Also, be sure to let them know about any dietary restrictions.

Elder Christmas Party

All Elders and friends are invited to a festive holiday lunch on Thursday, December 10 at noon. We will have good food, good fellowship, Christmas music and FUN!

Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift. (Think re-gifting)

Please RSVP by signing up in the hallway or call Helga Reaves at 727-418-2239.

Hayesville Christmas Parade Float

The Hayesville Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 12, and Good Shepherd will enter a float. John Notchie will pull our float behind his pickup truck so if you or your neighbors, children, grandchildren want to ride in the bed, or we will have hay bales on the float for sitting, then meet us in the big parking lot at the new courthouse before 4:30 to

jump on! Otherwise if you want to walk along, meet us at the turn at the Methodist Church. We have to be lined up for judging in the new courthouse parking lot at 4:30 so we'll probably caravan out around 5pm headed to town. Hope to see you there. Contact Kathy Rarey, kprarey@yahoo.com or 502 525 7256.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will set up on Wednesday December 23rd at 10am for Christmas Services. We need many hands to make light work. The silver has already been polished, the cruets washed and the wicks

replaced on all the candles. Thanks to Kathryn for all the help with that so this set up should not take too long. All are welcome to come and help.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Good Shepherd Episcopal Church will be held on January 24, 2016 in the Parish Hall between services. The meeting is required by both Cannon Law and our By-laws. Three Vestry members will be rotating off the Vestry and four new members of the Vestry will be commissioned.

A pot luck brunch will be held in conjunction with the meeting. Please sign up for the item(s) you wish to bring in the hallway. Have your contribution, ready to serve, in the Parish Hall no later than 9:00 am on January 24. There will be no free space available for preparation in the kitchen. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:15 am. There will not be a Coffee Hour after the second service.

The Shepherd's Voice

Diocesan Convention Report

Nine members of Good Shepherd and Fr. Bill attended the 94th Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina at Kanuga November 13-15, 2015. Jim Redmond and Suzi Herbert served as delegates. Judy Bourne and Kanute Rarey were alternates. Kathy Rarey and Barb Redmond manned the Sacred Threads table and handed out bookmarks. Virginia Hunter, Teresa Gribble, and Kathy Wright faithfully attended the meetings and listened to the endless resolutions. It was a very calm and positive convention. The 2016 Diocesan budget

was passed, as were six resolutions. Resolution 6: Eliminating Residency Requirement was of great interest to Good Shepherd as it now allows lay members of our parish that live in Georgia to serve as constitutional or canonical officers. Bishop Taylor appointed three of our members to committees; Teresa Gribble, Christian Formation; Elizabeth Rybicki, Fiscal Ministries; and David Gribble, Justice and Outreach. Because of the election of our next bishop in June there will not be a Mission and Ministry Conference in 2016.

Library Corner

Each month we will endeavor to highlight a book or books from our church Library. The Library is located downstairs next to the Undercroft classroom. Books are organized by category and eventually within each category they will be alphabetized. The collection contains over 1500 titles and includes these categories : Fiction, Family and Youth, Spirituality, Prayer, Prayer Books, Reference, Bible Studies, Arts and Music, Wellness, C.S. Lewis, History, Memoir and Biography, and more. You are invited to peruse at your leisure and take a volume home to read. There are tables, chairs and a couch. Return books when you are finished with them.

This month's review is *The Yada Yada Prayer Group* by Neta Jackson. The reviewer is Rachel Baughn.

Through fiction, we as readers get the opportunity to walk in another person's shoes. While this series speaks from the point of

view of a white woman from the Midwest, she encounters and learns to care about the lives of other Christian women from a huge variety of backgrounds. And, in the end, they help her to accept and appreciate her own strengths and weaknesses. As I got to know the women throughout the series, it strengthened my compassion and understanding, reinforced the admonition not to judge others, and frequently posed the question of what I would do in the same situation.

The books conclude with discussion questions, recipes, and advice on starting your own prayer group.

Rachel has generously donated the entire series of *The Yada Yada Prayer Group* books for your reading pleasure. They are located in the Fiction section of the Library.

Newcomers — Barrie and Kathleen Lyden



Barrie and I lived our life in Hamburg, New York. We raised our three children there and attended Trinity Episcopal Church, which we joined when we were married in 1962. We moved to Sarasota-Bradenton area of Florida to start a new business and have been there for 30 years.

In 1998 we took a vacation by just driving north and ended up in Murphy, NC; we fell in love with the area and built a vacation home there. This will be the first year we didn't go back to Florida. We are going to try it year round and see if it works for us. We now live in Brasstown and have been attending Good Shepherd.

Barrie and I like to go to flea markets where we collect and sell antiques. We love the beauty of the mountains and to walk the wooded trails around our mountain home. We have just started to volunteer at the new Tri-State Spay and Neuter Clinic, where we help care for the dogs and cats after surgery so the vet-techs are free to do other things.

I am a homemaker who enjoys baking, cooking, and shopping. We have seven grandchildren and one small older dog.

Kathleen Newton Lyden

Parish News

Birthdays in December

- 1 Logan Daniel, Nick George
- 4 Jarod Covington, Raymond Dickey
- 5 Lamar Battles, AJ Bruce
- 6 Joan Mahon
- 7 Pat Hicks, Gil Nicolson
- 10 Karen Neumann, Cheryl Notchie
- 11 Georgia Battles
- 12 Marilyn Clark, Teresa Gribble
- 14 Mark Siekmann
- 15 Hazel McIntyre, Carolyn Rice, Joan Walter
- 16 Patty Bilitzke, Abigail Graacki
- 17 Carol Smucker
- 20 John Gray
- 26 Ed Kelley
- 27 Vicky Schwartz, Birch Criss, Jacob Wallace
- 28 Ruth Zimmerman
- 29 Larry Hartman
- 30 Meliss Czarnecki, Karen Foster, Fred King
- 31 Talley Breedlove, Gail Criss, Dudley Hall

Anniversaries in December

- 7 Angela and Joe Martin
- 10 Georgia Souther and Yale Citrin
- 16 Jean and Mike Gora
- 27 Mary and Darrell Goltz
- 31 Becky and Chuck Van Gorder

End of Year Donations

All donations for 2015 must be in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2015. Any contributions received or postmarked after that date will be credited to 2016 contributions.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2015 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.

In Sympathy we are thinking of:

Suzi Herbert on the death of her brother, Gary Fritts.

Angela and Tom Wilkerson on the death of his brother, Rudy Wilkerson.

Shirley and Bob Stillwell on the death of Bob's brother, Stephen Stillwell.

Give rest, O Christ, to Thy servants with Thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

✠ ✠ ✠

Congratulations to:

Kathi Hicks and Bob LeKites who were married on October 24.

Financials (October 31, 2015)

2015 General Operations Fund:

Balance on December 31, 2014	[\$18,047]
Income YTD	313,970
Expenditures YTD	<u>324,400</u>
Balance in Operating Account on October 31	[\$19,906]

Receipts for Debt Reduction	\$27,769
Balance on mortgage with bank	\$174,900
Balance on loan from diocese	\$0*
Balance on loan from Mt. of Faith	\$25,000

*Note that the diocesan construction loan has been paid in full.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Rybicki in the office on Mondays.

The Shepherd's Voice

Lectionary Readings for December

2 Advent December 6	3 Advent December 13	4 Advent December 20	1 Christmas December 27
Malachi 3:1-4	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	Exodus 33:18-23
Canticle 16	Canticle 9	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 92
Philippians 1:3-11	Philippians 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	1 John 1:1-9
Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-55	John 21:19b-24

Christmas Memorials

If you would like contribute to the decoration of the church for Christmas as memorial or in honor of a loved one 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 20.

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

Bulletin statement:

"Christmas decorations are given to the glory of God by

_____ (Your name)

() in loving memory of

() in thanksgiving for



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

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495 Herbert Hills Dr.
Hayesville NC 28904

Phone: 828-389-3397
Fax: 828-389-8304
E-mail: gsepiscopal@brmemc.net

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