



AUGUST 2022

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina

GETTING PLUGGED IN

In this season of stewardship, we do not only focus on time, talent, and treasure in the 'usual' ways. We can also reflect on our call to serve as stewards of the earth, like our Sunday prayer describes: "For the Good Earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom, foresight, and will to preserve it for generations to come, let us pray to the Lord."

In Cashiers, the good earth presents itself to us every day—as the place of dahlias and hydrangeas, mosses and hemlocks, rivers and streams, sunshine and rain, clean air and superb vistas. We come here for the beauty, we cultivate and curate the beauty, and we preserve natural beauty with conservation easements, state forests, or through the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. I thank God for all that, and it's why we need the 'continual wisdom to preserve it.'



I took a personal step along similar lines in January when I purchased a new car—an all-electric Volvo XC40. The idea had been with me for years, but the reality seemed out of reach. The questions were obvious: Where and how would I refuel? How far would one battery charge take me? Would it have enough engine power? (The answer, by the way, is YES, and then some.) What would the costs be in relation to a gas car? Do they have all-wheel drive? (Again, yes, many do.) Is electricity really cleaner than gas, all things considered? (As I understand it, the answer is yes.)

An ultimate motivator was to do something for the earth I love, the air I love to breathe. If it's in my power to do, then do so, even if it means a little more skin off my back, a little more inconvenience for me, and a more sustainable future for us all. Our prayer was in my mind too: 'preserving the earth for generations to come.' I needed, I wanted, I hoped that prayer could be active in a big decision about everyday impact.

Now, thanks to the vestry, we have a charging station at Good Shepherd! Linda and I donated the charger itself, and Good Shepherd paid for the electrical hook up. For the time being, the charging itself for all who need it will be free, with a 'donations welcome' QR code for those who wish. We see this as evangelism and leadership. We see this as a boost to the 3-4 parishioners who have electric cars already—and the ones to come. Finally, we see having this charging station as another active way to live into the prayer: "For the Good Earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom, foresight, and will to preserve it for generations to come."

Help spread the word, and feel free to get plugged in if you are so led.

Rob +





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 ELISABETH HOFFMAN
 2 FRED BRADLEY
 4 JOHN WATTS
 5 SANDRA SWARTZFAGER
 5 CAROL TREICHEL
 5 COLLINS VALLEE
 5 JEFFREY AUSTON
 5 PATTY MAGARO
 5 PAMELA TUTTLE
 6 ROB HOYERMAN
 8 BILL STANLY
 8 SHARON PRYSE
 8 WILSON ELLIS
 12 WARREN HUDSON
 13 SUTTON TURNER
 13 MERRY SOELLNER
 13 CARY KING
 13 DAWSON BRYANT
 14 JEANNE TRAVIS
 15 WILL MCKEE
 15 RIP POITEVENT
 15 CLAUDIA O'STEEN
 16 VIRGINIA PLAUCHE
 17 JACK STIBBS
 18 GLORIA WEIR
 19 LAWSON KELLY
 20 TOM WOODHAM
 22 JOE THOMPSON
 23 ROBERT SINCLAIR
 25 GEORGE HART
 26 SUSANNE WEAN
 28 SANDY BISHOP
 28 BARB RECKTENWALD
 29 MARY QUILLEN
 31 CHA CHA BROWN
 31 MARY JO PENDARVIS

BAPTISM

We were pleased to welcome
 Hank Holman Hennessy into
 the Body of Christ on
 Sunday, July 17, 2022.
(photo - right)



REFLECTION UPON "TELL OUT MY SOUL"

"Tell Out My Soul," our closing hymn for August 28th, was written by English bishop and prolific hymn writer Timothy Dudley-Smith in 1962. We will be singing Dudley-Smith's words to the tune BIRMINGHAM; these same words are often sung to the tune WOODLANDS as well.

Bishop Dudley-Smith wrote the hymn in May 1961 when he and his wife had just moved into their first house in Blackheath, an area of southeast London. He was inspired to write the text when he was reading a modern paraphrase of the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55 in the New English Bible, a translation which begins with the phrase, "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord." Dudley-Smith's text is a metrical paraphrase of the Magnificat. The Magnificat is patterned after The Song of Hannah found in the second chapter of I Samuel. The similarities between the songs may be found especially in the praise of God's mighty acts and the liberation and salvation for the lowest of society.

The opening line is the expression of an exuberant young Mary, a contrast to the usual more subdued translation of the opening Latin phrase, Magnificat anima mea, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Mary sings this song after she learns of the conception and birth of Jesus from the angel Gabriel. This Scripture is found in the Revised Common Lectionary every year, either on the third or fourth Sunday of Advent.

Although this text is often read and proclaimed during the season of Advent, Bishop Dudley-Smith's words are applicable at any time of the year. These words trumpet God's enduring love and ever-present power. They herald God's saving work, salvation that comes to all people through the birth of God into the world. This Savior comes into the world as a tiny baby in the poorest of estates, born to a mother who was willing to accept God's greatest call.

--adapted from Wikipedia and umcdiscipleship.org

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4 RIP & MARIAN POITEVENT
 5 JERRY & CRIS HAYES
 6 ED & NANCY PEARSON
 11 BRYAN & LYN BURKETT
 12 NED & MARY JO PENDARVIS
 16 JOHN & WIMBERLEY WATTS
 17 TOM WOODHAM & WILSON ELLIS
 18 ANDREW & MELISSA HUDSON
 19 KEITH & JULIANNE HART

20 IRV & ELEANOR WELLING
 20 JOHN PAUL & MARGARET MUSSELMAN
 24 NED & SUZANNE TURNBILL
 24 MORGAN & JUDY BROOKFIELD
 24 CHARLES & BARBARA TICKLE
 24 BEN & MAGGIE ELMER
 26 CARLTON & ALMA O'NEAL
 26 FRED & KAREN HIRONS
 31 GORDON & JEANIE COLEMAN

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN AT 828-743-2359 OR GOODSHEPADMIN@FRONTIER.COM



MISTAKES BACK IN THE DAY

BY: JIM PALMER

Back in the day, I was a pastor at the largest church in North America. Eventually I walked away from it all because I could not teach beliefs and doctrines that I myself no longer accepted.

No person taught evangelical theology with the devotion and passion that I did, but one day I realized this did not produce true and lasting change in others lives or my own.

Looking back, I can see I made at least these mistakes as a megachurch pastor:

- Putting church over community
- Putting orthodoxy over love.
- Putting certainty over wonder.
- Putting teaching over conversation.
- Putting polished over real.
- Putting explanations over empathy.
- Putting answers over questions.
- Putting membership over friendship.
- Putting prayer over action.
- Putting services over self-care.
- Putting style over substance.
- Putting appearance over authenticity.
- Putting theology over psychology.
- Putting religiosity over spirituality.
- Putting numbers over faces.
- Putting holiness over humanity.
- Putting accountability over acceptance.
- Putting heaven over earth.
- Putting meetings over relationships.
- Putting reputation over risk.
- Putting superiority over humility.
- Putting charisma over compassion.
- Putting the afterlife over the herelife.
- Putting doctrine over reason.
- Putting patriarchy over equality.
- Putting Christianity over Jesus.

- Jim Palmer

Jim received his Masters in Divinity from Trinity in Chicago, and he served as pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. Later, he was the founding and senior pastor of Springbrook Community Church in Nashville, TN. Fr. Rob thought this reflection was a good reminder for all churches, all Christians

2023 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

To be a steward is to care, and use one's time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship cards for 2023 were mailed last month and are at the church as well. Please prayerfully consider your generosity and pledge and return pledge cards as soon as possible.

As of 7/24/2022 we have received 74 pledges for a total of \$252,810. Of those 71 pledges 22 are increases from last year's pledge and 16 are new pledges. Our goal is to reach 200 pledges so we are over a third of the way there.

Thank you for your generosity and gratitude to God through our ministry Good Shepherd!



REMEMBERENCE OF THINGS PAST

BY: JUDGE ROBERT L BROWN

In the late 1950s, my father, Bishop Robert R. Brown of Arkansas, was asked to come to the Church of the Good Shephard and preach on Sundays for the month of August. Cashiers would not be that new to the Brown family. When we lived in Richmond, Virginia, the family spent several summers at Kanuga, the Episcopal Church Conference Center outside of Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Dad had a reputation as a dynamic preacher and a regarded author of religious books and articles. He had also received national recognition in 1957 for his stand in Little Rock to obey the law and permit the integration of Central High School. He wrote a book about his struggles as a Christian in 1958 entitled *Bigger Than Little Rock*. Because of all this, he landed on Warden Hank Conkle's radar screen as a potential August preacher at Good Shepherd. Dad was asked to come, and he accepted. Thus, began the long romance between the Brown family and Good Shepherd.

My two sisters, Wickie and Kathy, and I accompanied our parents for some of those early August sojourns and stayed in the Church Rectory which is now Hines Hall. The rectory had two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. A splendid white porch framed the front of the house. My bed was a Castro convertible sofa in the living room which worked just fine. Though he preached for only four Sundays in August, Dad's reputation grew. It became a badge of honor for folding chairs to be placed in the aisles for overflow congregations. The spirit in those Sunday church services was always good. The hymns were vigorously sung with just a hint of a mountain twang.

Good Shepherd, though a mission, had strong lay leadership: families like the Waddells, the Thomassons, and the Cluetts, just to name a few. And, of course, there was Hank Conkle who was the major domo and good friend, as was his multi-talented and gracious wife, Dottie. Another close friend was W.D. McKee, a faithful parishioner, who owned High Hampton and gave the Browns the run of the place. I soon became very proficient on sand greens in creating ruts along which my golf balls would travel.

Without question, the closest bond between bishops was that of my father and Bishop John Hines of Texas, who later became Presiding Bishop of the church. The rivalry was tense and the kidding and teasing unmerciful. I would taunt Bishop Hines by suggesting that he might be the better golfer, but Dad was the better preacher. Bishop Hines, or Jeremiah, as I called him, loved that. He would then thrash me playing doubles on the tennis court. The bond extended to their wives, Warwick Brown and Helen Hines. It is entirely fitting that both men and their wives are buried in the Good Shepherd graveyard, as are Hank and Dottie Conkle.

Humor and fun were the rule of the day, whether it be playing the Dictionary game with my wife Charlotte and the Hineses or enduring one of Hank Conkle's practical jokes over dinner or joining singalongs at the Inn. Good Shepherd and Cashiers have always been the Browns' Happy Place.

It has all changed, of course. In 1981, Good Shepherd hired a permanent vicar, Steve Hines, at the suggestion of my father and added an annex to the church four years later. Good Shepherd was no longer a mountain mission but a full-fledged parish. But in the roots of Good Shepherd still resides the wholesome and fervent spirit of the early days. And Oh, what memories still abide in us! Those were the days.



REFLECTIONS

BY: THE REVEREND STEVE HINES

My father had a one-month vacation, and when he was signed up to take services at Good Shepherd, we would rent out our house in Highlands and stay at the rectory - a white frame house with a much used screened-in front porch, a living/dining room area, a kitchen and (at 1st) two bedrooms and one bath. A second bathroom, and a utility room with washer and dryer, was later added. The much appreciated 2nd bathroom was affectionately called "the loo with a view," as it looked out over the graveyard and the High Hampton golf course.



(The old Church Rectory.)

Except for Sundays, almost every day we played golf at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley (occasionally at High Hampton) because, as I later found out, Gene Howard, Sr., the owner, would let clergy and State Police play for free! We would always get in a bit of tennis on the High Hampton red clay courts as well.

On Sundays, people would park in the Rectory's front yard. The traffic, being "directed" by an older local man named "Cooter" Autrey, who was known around town for averaging about 2 or 3 miles per hour when he drove his pickup truck around Cashiers. The church had a very small sacristy and no air conditioning. The windows were always open. On warmer Sundays, my father would encourage gentlemen to remove their jackets if they wished. My father sweated profusely and was always mopping his brow with a handkerchief which he pulled from the sleeve in his vestments.

I don't recall if there was an early service back then but the later/main service was always "Holy Communion" on the 1st Sunday of the month and the following Sundays were Morning Prayer and Sermon. Henry Conkle often read the lessons.

These were fond memories for me because (1) the cool mountain weather was a nice break from the brutal Texas summers and also (2) because my father, as a bishop travelled often performing his duties and he was rarely at home for any length of time - for that one month we had him all to ourselves!



"DUCK!"

"DUCK! YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT!" says Sharon Stricker.

Circles are universal symbols.

You see them depicted everywhere. The most prominent is probably the wedding ring. Archeologists can date the custom of wedding rings back to 4000 BC although the materials were reeds, leather or bone rather than precious metals. Still, it represented the same thing – love with no end.

The famous 5 interlocking circles of the Olympics logo didn't come until several centuries later when in 1913 the new logo was unveiled for the 20th anniversary of the modern-day Olympics. Yet it is not just in visual symbols. Circles make their way into music like one of my favorites, "The Windmills of your Mind" by Michel LeGrande.

It goes something like this:

"Round like a circle in a spiral. like a wheel within a wheel
Never ending or beginning on an ever-spinning reel
Like a snowball down a mountain, or a carnival balloon
Like a carousel that's turning running rings around the moon."

Then there is the ubiquitous "Circle the wagons!" in nearly every western ever made that symbolized how much stronger we would be against any enemy if we stayed together.

We have a powerful circle right here at Good Shepherd that symbolizes our mission of reflecting God's love through our faith in action.

The first arc of that circle is drawn with the generosity of residents and parishioners who bring their gently used furniture, household goods, linens, unusual decorative pieces to The Barn to be cleaned and polished up, restored, and displayed amongst other treasures by our remarkable Barn maestro, Skip Ryan. He is aided and abetted by long-time Barn volunteers Sharon Stricker and Laura Lankford and a growing circle (pardon the pun) of other volunteers who help.

Buoyed by a strong real estate market and a generational trend of re-use, what just a few years ago was a once-a-year event has turned into a seasonal business that both local designers and customers who must shop on a budget love. The Barn has been the recipient of great inventory which has translated into record-breaking sales. One of my favorite moments every Sunday is to walk past Skip and have him say with a big smile, "\$16,000!" or whatever the weekend's sales number was. He needn't say anything else. That's a dazzling number that puts us on track to exceed last year's dazzling number.

That's half the circle.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, or in this case, Hines Hall, the Finance Committee headed by Irv Welling, our Treasurer, the Vestry and Father Rob have collected all the generous annual pledges plus the profits from The Barn and used those to develop budgets to support the needs of our Church and allocate money for the year.

Every year the Outreach Grants Committee 's work is guided by Matthew 25: 31-45. This was Janie Crews' last year on the committee, having served 14 faithful years as chairperson.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from Page 6)

Bill Canby acted as her co-chair this year and another co-chair will replace Janie next year. One of the things she has said repeatedly is what a blessing it has been to do this work. She has learned so much about our community and its needs and about our church.

In early May, the committee began its work reviewing 39 grant requests, attending 20 presentations, making 14 visits and countless emails and phone calls as follow-ups to requesting agencies during May and June.

All the meetings are emotional, informative, serious, and collegiate. You get very close to people when you go together to visit an agency working with abused children or at-risk teen-agers being given a second chance. Or, the only hospice facility in the area.

By the end of June, only large foundations were bigger funders than our little church when we distributed more than \$300,000 to local agencies, thanks to the inspired work and generosity of our parish. And perhaps one additional partner - as Sharon would say, "You better duck when you walk into Good Shepherd, 'cause you're going to bump your head on the Holy Spirit!"

And, that's the full circle.

If you haven't signed your pledge card, volunteered for a committee, signed your time and talent card yet, do it. You will get much more out of it, than you will put into it.

RECIPIENTS FOR 2023 OUTREACH GRANT AWARDS:

- AWAKE
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Cashiers/Highlands
- Blue Ridge Mtn. Health-Dental Clinic
- Blue Ridge School Education Foundation
- Boys/Girls Club of the Plateau
- Cashiers Valley Preschool
- Center for Domestic Peace (REACH)
- Community Care Clinic (Jerry Hermanson)
- Community Table
- Fishes & Loaves
- The Hampton School, Inc.
- HERE in Jackson County
- HIGHTS
- Jackson County Department on Aging
- Jr. App Musicians (JAM)
- Life Challenge of WNC
- Literacy Council
- Ministry of Hope (chaplains in prison)
- SAFE
- Summit Charter School
- United Christian Ministries
- Pisgah Legal Services
- Vecinos Inc
- Hospice House Foundation of WNC
- Muddy Sneakers
- Blue Ridge Health-Good Samaritan
- Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad
- International Friendship Center
- Highlands/Cashiers Land Trust
- Friends of the Library - Cashiers AC Library
- Village Green
- Cashiers Valley Community Chorus



The Reverend Robert B. Wood, Rector
rwood.gs@gmail.com
The Reverend Alison Schultz, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Toby Summerour, Adjunct Priest
The Reverend Steve Hines, Adjunct Priest

Church of the Good Shepherd
Post Office Box 32
Cashiers, North Carolina 28717

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Irv Welling, Treasurer Ellen Albright, Clerk

Vestry:

Peg Kirchner Lenny Blevins
Doreen Hastings Lynn Jones
Mark Quick Vic Brandt
Ruth Russ Kate Gholston

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

Ellen Albright, Parish Administrator
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
Christy Banks, Finance & Accounts Manager
Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, Organist & Choir Master
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

Church Phone: (828)743-2359

Website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

T H A N K Y O U



Thanks seems too small a word for the people of Good Shepherd who were so gracious and generous with all their 'pounds' of love, affection, food and plants. We feel truly blessed to be here and our pantry, cupboards and hearts are full. Thank you!!

- Todd and Alison