

JANUARY 2023

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina



A JANUARY INVITATION: WILL YOU RSVP?

Don't you enjoy an invitation? To a birthday party, or a wedding, or maybe recently, to a New Year's gathering? An invitation means 'you are wanted' or 'the honor of your presence is requested.' It might mean dressing up or making plans or taking a hostess gift as a sign of appreciation. In almost all cases, it means an RSVP.

The practice of RSVPing has fallen on rough times. Of course, RSVP means "*Repondez, s'il vous plait*" in French, or in English, 'respond, if you please.' Letting the host or hostess know helps with planning and returns a kindness.

On the other hand, a student or two at Sewanee in my time received an invitation from the Dean of Students that read something like, "Please come to my office today," or even "Come by my office without delay." That is a different type of invitation, an ominous invitation not to be neglected, and it required an RSVP of actively walking feet.

Andrew and Peter are invited by Jesus into discipleship early on in Jesus' ministry, and that story has two versions. The first from John 1 has Jesus simply request of them, "Come and see." You will hear that version on Sunday, January 15. In Matthew's version (read on January 22) Jesus says quite simply, "Follow me." (Matthew 4:19) I offer that we all actually receive that invitation to follow Jesus every day. Every day requires a response—of the feet and heart.

Does the invitation come like a welcomed and awaited party invitation, though the Christian life is not always a party? Or does it come with authority and some power, knowing you'd sure better reply or things may get bad for you? My guess is we can hear it both ways, but most likely, and because God has given us free will, we do have the choice to follow Jesus or not, and our RSVP of following with feet and hearts is the response that Jesus wants. (Heaven forbid we fail to reply!)

These two gospel lessons in January shape this first month of the calendar year as an "invitation" month. As we make resolutions in January for the year, you will hear quite clearly our Lord saying, "Follow me." Without a question mark, it sounds like more of an order. With a question mark, "Follow me?" the invitation comes as question.

In turn, we are asked to invite others into our Christian walk. We might say to someone, "Come and see what's happening at Good Shepherd!" Come and see what's happening at the Barn, or at ELL, or on Sunday mornings, or for a movie night. A program of hospitality in the Episcopal Church named, "Invite, Welcome, Connect," highlights the importance of personal invitation. Newspaper ads, social media posts only go so far. Personal invitations go much further. *(continued on page 2)*

STATS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 MISSY CASSIDY
1 NELL HINES
3 LIDA HERRING
4 SKIP RYAN
4 DAPHNE HOWARD
6 NANCY THORPE
6 JOHN MUSSLEMAN
7 DONNA BORN
9 HAMILTON ARNALL
9 JANE E ROSENBERG
9 SHARON VANVICK
10 CASSANDRA MANLEY
11 LYNN JONES
12 JOHN SHANNON
13 KATHY YOUNG
14 FRAN REEVES
14 ROBERT FLAHERTY
15 MICHAEL BORN
15 MARTHA RIVERS
16 JOHN BISSELL
17 KATHRYN DEAN
20 WILL BOEVE
22 LINDA PRIDGEN
26 KATE PUSCH
27 PAT ALDERS
30 JULIA BOEVE
30 KEVIN ROWLAND
31 PATRICIA WHITESIDE

(continued from cover)

Thus, the second reason January is "Invitation month." You will hear of ways you are invited to participate in our life together, and you will hear us asking you to invite someone to come and see. February will be the month to "Welcome," and March the month to "Connect." Then we will start the three part cycle over again.

As the honor of your presence is requested among the chosen of God, and as you consider your RSVP, meditate, *s'il vous plait*, on this spiritual reflection by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), found at #348 of our hymnal.

Rob +

1 Lord, we have come at Your own invitation, / Chosen by You, to be counted as friends; / Yours is the strength that sustains our vocation, / Ours a commitment we know never ends.

2 Here, at Your table, confirm our intention, / ever to cherish the gifts you provide; / Teach us to serve without pride or pretension, / led by your Spirit, defender and guide.

3 When, at Your table, each time of returning, / Vows are renewed and our courage restored: / May we increasingly glory in learning / All that it means to accept You as Lord.

4 Soon in the world where each duty assigned us / gives us the chance to create or destroy; / help us to make those decisions that bind us / lord to yourself, in obedience and joy.

VISITORS TO GOOD SHEPHERD:

We love welcoming new people to our church and are so excited that the following people visited us this past month.

If you see these people, please introduce yourself!

Dr. Cathy Brumback - Fairhope, AL

Miriam Davis - Cashiers, NC

Matt, Tamara, Reagan, & Brinley Schwarz - Lake Toxaway SC

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 RANDY & KAYE SCHULER
1 DAVE & PEG KIRCHNER
1 RUSTY & KATHY MILLER
4 BRUCE & GINNY VORSANGER
7 JACK & POLLY USELTON
15 SHARON STRICKER & MAIZIE BELSER

21 JOHN & MAGGIE CANNON
23 PHIL & LINDA MADDOX
27 TOM & WENDY DOWDEN
28 WILLIAM & SHELIA CRAWFORD
31 RICH & MARY MCCONNELL

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



ELL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 13, we capped off our fall semester with a Christmas Party for all participants. The students made a thank-you banner and the kids got to whack on a pinata. Congrats to the 15 regular students on their progress and accomplishments! Many thanks to our teachers; to Laura Black, who coordinates our 20+ volunteers; to Karla Magaña, who works with all participants; and of course to all the volunteers for this Monday and Tuesday night ministry. Classes resume February 27/28. Come be part of this engaging ministry!





HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN OF JANUARY

Julia Chester Emery, January 9



September 26, 1846 - January 9, 1922. Leader of women's ministry, founder of United Thank Offering. She came to New York in 1874 to edit "*The Young Christian Soldier*". In 1876 she was appointed secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions (WA). Emery held that position for the next forty years, resigning in 1916. She directed the expansion of the WA into every domestic and missionary diocese of the Episcopal Church and was key to the founding and growth of the United Offering (now the United Thank Offering). To promote the Auxiliary, she visited churches and missionaries throughout the United States. In 1897 she addressed the woman's missionary congress held in London in conjunction with the Lambeth Conference. In 1908 she represented the Diocese of New York at the Pan-Anglican Congress in London. She then continued around the world, visiting mission stations in Europe and Asia.

She was the author of *A Century of Endeavor* (1921), the centennial history of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and biographies of John Henry Hobart and Alexander Viets Griswold.

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UNITED THANK OFFERING



**Practice Gratitude
and change the world.**

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Learn more or give at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>



HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN OF JANUARY

Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15



January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968 -- Civil rights leader. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the son and grandson of African American Baptist preachers. He received his B.A. from Morehouse College in 1948 and was ordained a Baptist minister on February 25, 1948. King received his M.Div. from the Crozer Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, in 1951. While a student at Crozer, he was exposed to the writings of Mohandas K. Gandhi. He was deeply impressed

by Gandhi's faith in nonviolent protest. In 1955 King received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University. On October 31st, 1954, he was installed as the twentieth pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where he stayed until 1960.

On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. She was arrested. The African American community organized a bus boycott, and King became its leader. He soon became the leader of the civil rights movement in the United States and the nation's most ardent exponent of nonviolent social reform. The theme of the bus boycott was "We must stand up together so that we can sit down wherever we please."

In January 1957 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was organized. King was its first president. Its motto was "To redeem the soul of America." On January 24th, 1960, King became the co-pastor with his father of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, and stayed there until his death. King was frequently harassed and arrested. On April 16th, 1963, he published his well-known "Letter from Birmingham City Jail." In this letter he explained that Christian discipleship is at the heart of the African American struggle for justice. On August 28th, 1963, he gave the speech, "I Have a Dream," as the keynote address of the March on Washington for Civil Rights. King was given the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10th, 1964, for his efforts in getting the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed. In the last several years before his death, he was a leader of the opposition to the war in Vietnam.

At the beginning of April 1968 he went to Memphis to participate in a sanitation workers' strike. On April 3rd, the night before he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel, he gave his "Mountain-top" speech at the Masonic Temple in Memphis. In this speech he said that he dreamed of an America free of racism and full of freedom. His ministry and witness are also commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on April 4th.



NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Kevin Rowland



I have attended Good Shepherd as a regular guest since 2003 when my in-laws, David & Malise Foster joined. I officially joined in 2018 and have enjoyed every moment including worship and volunteer opportunities. My favorite time to date must be the silver lining of “Drive Thru Prayers” during the terrible COVID pandemic. Serving each week in the parking lot as members and non-members alike found a way to commune with church in their cars with kids, dogs, etc. was a miracle, God found a way! I have enjoyed volunteering to be the photo bug who snaps many of the pics you see in our publications and just being ready to trust God and do good as often as possible. I currently serve on the Conkle-Rowe Scholarship Committee, volunteer at the Bazaar Barn especially during the heavy-lifting days, and excited to join Outreach & Vestry in 2023. Good Shepherd is a major part of my family life with my husband, Patch Foster, and we couldn't be more thrilled to be included in the fold of such an inclusive diverse and growing church with our faith in action each day.

Rose Mary Achey

I became a member of The Church of Good Shepherd in 2017 when relocating full-time to Cashiers. Most recently, I have helped with the Engagement Ministry at Good Shepherd. My hope for the coming year is to continue to work with others in the church to maintain and extend the good works Good Shepherd performs in our community. In addition, I hope to help members who may not be involved find the ministry which best suits their interests and skills. I have served on the Board of The Village Green here in Cashiers and while in Charlotte served on boards including Alexander Youth Network, The Charlotte Trolley, The Family Center, The Dilworth Community Development Association and Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council. I have two adult children-Maggie and Patrick. There is much to love about Good Shepherd-the people are kind and have good hearts, the chapel is intimate and welcoming, and the messages we receive during service are meaningful.



Fred Halback



Annemarie and I have been members of the Church of the Good Shepherd since 2016 and live at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. We have lived here fulltime since 2020. We have been married for 38 years and have two sons and a daughter-in-law, who live in Florida. I was raised as an Episcopalian and have always loved the liturgy and openness of the church. I was honored to be on the vestry of Christ Church at Serenata Beach, for four years, serving as junior and senior warden.

I am a practicing landscape architect since 1978, and still work part-time for Marquis Latimer + Halback, Inc., a firm I founded, located in St. Augustine, Florida. We specialize in cultural and historical projects, which is why I love the setting of Good Shepherd and is why I was honored to be on the committee overseeing the Memorial and Meditation Garden. I currently am serving on the Outreach Committee.

We feel blessed to have found a new church home, and now that we live fulltime in the Highlands area, we are enjoying getting involved in our church and community. The Highlands plateau is a verdant sanctuary, and as such my goal for Good Shepherd is to help protect and enhance the historic and sacred setting as well as continue the generous outreach that we provide to the community. We are “the little church that lives to give.”



NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Sharon Stricker



I have been a member of Good Shepherd for about 13 years. We used to drive up for Sunday services from our home in SC. At retirement, we knew that Cashiers and COGS just had to be our permanent home – and we never looked back. After a career as an educator, psychotherapist and a school owner and administrator, I took one year off to sleep. Then I jumped in to some exciting ministries at church! I am on Conkle-Rowe Scholarship Committee, a Lector, Bazaar Barn Volunteer, Outreach Grants Committee, and a Daughter of the King. Previously, I have been on Vestry, Spiritual Director on the Discernment Committee (for Father Rob), Adult Sunday School Teacher, Team Leader for ELL, Grief Counselor and Bazaar Chairman. Count it all Joy!!

Having recently stepped down as Bazaar Barn Board Chair, I look forward to my next three years on Vestry and how I can best serve Church of the Good Shepherd. We are a church “alive” that is loving, generous and Spirit-filled. As I tell Rob and Alison, the holy Spirit is flying all over our property, and we need to duck or get hit in the head!

I am living in Sapphire with my soulmate (and now spouse) of 38 years, Maizie Belser along with our Jack Russell, Wren, and our Yorkie, Boo Radley. With four daughters and ten grandkids, family claims a good portion of our hearts and our time.

Kate Gholston

Count your blessings and at the top of my list is Good Shepherd!

We have been spending more and more time in the area and call it “home” when we are in San Destin ,Florida, in the Winter. Volunteering at the Barn is such a fun adventure for me. It is amazing to have been there to see it grow so rapidly. The other volunteers have become like family and I miss them during the winter months. I have always loved Bible study. A graduate and long time mentor of EFM, taking more classes at CGS is super. I have learned so much and hope that I have been able to add to the classes. The Thursday group is the best. Vacation Bible School! Are you kidding me? Wow, was that a great decision. Loved helping and being on stage everyday! The kids had a wonderful time but I bet not as much as I did. For several years I have been a licensed Eucharistic Minister. It is such a fulfilling thing for me and gives me a feeling of closeness to God. Reading and acolyte duty are also activities that I am always bugging Ellen to let me be scheduled to do! As you can tell Good Shepherd has given me so many blessings that I am delighted to serve on the Vestry (not something I thought, after being Senior Warden of a church with no Priest, that I would ever say). The future of this lovely holy place is never ending, and the Holy Spirit is always present in each corner and smiling face that is there.



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

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Vestry Officers:

Laura Lankford, Senior Warden Peter Keck, Junior Warden
Irv Welling, Treasurer Ellen Albright, Clerk

Vestry:

Doreen Hastings Lynn Jones
Mark Quick Vic Brandt
Ruth Russ Kate Gholston
Kevin Rowland Rose Mary Achey
Sharon Stricker Fred Halback

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Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, Organist & Choir Master
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

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**TRANSFORMING QUESTIONS
SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM HINES HALL & ON ZOOM
JANUARY 8, 2023 - MARCH 19, 2023**

- Can we question our faith?
- Who is Jesus?
- Does God answer prayer?



- How do I read the Bible?
- Why is there suffering?
- How should we live?

This is a course for those exploring faith for the 1st or the 50th time - adults preparing for baptism, confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, or reaffirmation of faith. In 11 sessions, we seek to move deeper by engaging in some of faith's most basic questions: Who is Jesus? How should we read the Bible? Why is there suffering? Participants gather for prayer, watch a video presentation, and then join in small-group discussion. Through listening and sharing, all will wrestle with these foundational questions in each other's company. As we do so, we will learn more about ourselves, one another, and the Jesus we are seeking.

ITALY PILGRIMAGE 2023

The Italy Pilgrimage is nearly set for 2023. As we continue pilgrimages that trace the movement of Christianity from Jerusalem to Europe, our next stop is Italy. We will visit some of the same places Rob scouted out for us on his sabbatical: Rome, Assisi, and Florence, and we will be guided along the steps of St. Francis of Assisi as well as Renaissance artists and theologians in Rome and Florence. Dates are October 18 - October 29, 2023, with an optional excursion to Tuscany and Siena through November 1. Costs (not including flight) will start around \$5,200 per person, and an additional fee of about \$1,500 for the add-on excursion, but that does depend on the number of participants. Email Rob at rwood.gs@gmail.com for a more detailed itinerary and to get on the 'interested' list. Official registration will open in January 2023 with a March 1 deadline. Hope you can join us!