



JULY 2023

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina

DANCING WITH GOD

The question, "Why do good things happen to bad people?" is one you have heard before, and many answers have been given. I recently stumbled upon one such answer, offered by the first priest and mentor I had out of seminary, Barbara Brown Taylor. Always the wordsmith and the faithsmith, she uses the story of Joseph being sold by his brothers as the springboard to her answer in the sermon entitled, "Listening to your Life." s, created a mess and came back to the dance. Redemption. Peter was invited back onto the dance floor by Jesus even after his toe-stepping betrayals with the words, "Peter do you love me...feed my sheep."

"God does not live way up above us somewhere, pulling the strings and calling the shots, but God lives right here in the midst of us, giving us our freedom and holding the divine breath while we make our choices. Sometimes they are very good and sometimes they are very bad. Either way, God does not leave. God is committed to us and to working through us, which is what divine providence is all about. Contrary to what most of us have been taught, it is not about God's will overriding our own. It is more like a dance, that totally mysterious dance that takes place between God's freedom and our freedom, between God's will and our own. In this dance, it is not God's job to keep bad things from happening. They do happen. Brothers turn against brothers [like Joseph's brothers did to him, selling him into slavery]. People are bought and sold. Famine devastates the land. God's job is not to prevent these things from happening. God's job is to stay present in them and to keep on being God, creating whole worlds out of total chaos, breathing life into piles of dust, taking the unfathomable wreckage of our lives and making something fine out of them in spite of us. Because that is who God is."

Though her answer does not put the question to rest (no answer, I think, ever could), it does help with the simple statement, "[Bad things] do happen." They often happen because of human choices, like we read in Prayer C: 'we turned against you, and betrayed your trust, and we turned against one another.' Or in terms of Barbara Taylor's other image, we decided to stop dancing with God.

I've always liked to dance, so I like the image of dancing with God. That image is a lot better than wrestling with God, which Joseph's father Jacob did, to which his dislocated hip can attest. Dancing with God could be a couple's dance (tango or slow sway) or dancing with God could be a group dancing together, like at a wedding reception, using the beat of the band to create some common rhythmic movements at the same time each person expresses individual flare. Maybe a group dance symbolizes what congregations do—have a group dance with God.

How we choose, how we use our freedom and choose to dance as congregations with God (in the midst of good things and bad things happening) is a testament our faith and trust in God, to our desire to be on the dance floor in the first place. And I might say, the last thing we want to do in this dance is step on God's toes—or forget who is in the lead.

(continued on page 8)

STATS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 ANNEMARIE HALBACK
2 GEORGE ELLIOTT
3 NEELY YOUNG
3 JEFF RUSSELL
5 FIELD BOATWRIGHT
6 TOM TREICHEL
6 LINDA MADDOX
6 ELLEN ALBRIGHT
7 AMANDA PETERKIN
7 THERESA COOPER
7 NED PENDARVIS
9 MARGARET MUSSLEMAN
9 MARCIA STIBBS
10 DAVID JONES
10 DICK CURRENCE
10 WILLIAM CRAWFORD
10 MILES RUSS
11 GINGER DEMPSEY
11 CARL FOWLER
11 JOHN HERRING
14 FRED RYLEE
14 MAGGIE CANNON
16 DAVE BRYANT
16 MARY LANE JOHNSON
17 LISE WESTON
17 BROOKE MACKINNON
19 ELIZABETH MCKEE
19 CHRISTOPHER DYER
19 BUFF ADAMS
20 RUSTY MILLER
21 LIZ COLE
21 RICHARD MCCONNELL
24 FRANK ROBLES
25 CHARLES SHROPSHIRE
26 KATHLEEN RIVERS
26 JIM WEIR
26 JACK SHARRETT
29 JUDY GRAY
30 BECKY BYARD
31 AMY THOMPSON

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

4 SUE & BARON HOLMES
7 BROMLEY & JACK SHARRETT
10 ROBERT & HELEN FORTSON
11 H.A. & KAY MOORE
17 CATHY & JIM FOSTER
19 LAMAR & LIZ COLE
20 SANDY & CAROL BISHOP
23 CARL & BEVERLY FOWLER

4 SUE & BARON HOLMES
7 BROMLEY & JACK SHARRETT
10 ROBERT & HELEN FORTSON
11 H.A. & KAY MOORE
17 CATHY & JIM FOSTER
19 LAMAR & LIZ COLE
20 SANDY & CAROL BISHOP
23 CARL & BEVERLY FOWLER

JULY EVENTS



SO PLEASE TAKE THIS MONTH OF JULY TO INVITE SOMEONE TO GOOD SHEPHERD...TO A SERVICE, A CLASS, OR EVEN TO VOLUNTEER OR SHOP AT THE BARN!

JULY IS THE MONTH TO INVITE PEOPLE TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY. PART OF OUR MISSION AT GOOD SHEPHERD IS TO "NURTURE A SENSE OF BELONGING AND ENGAGEMENT" IN OUR COMMUNITY, WHICH MEANS THE WAYS WE INVITE PEOPLE, WELCOME PEOPLE, AND CONNECT WITH PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT.

The Gospels of MARK & LUKE
Everything you ever wanted to know (and maybe more)
Led by Doug Bischoff
Every Thursday Starting July 13
Men's at 10am | Women's at 11am

FRIEDEMANN STIHLER
WED 7/26 | 5PM
RECEPTION IN HINES HALL TO FOLLOW
FRIEDEMANN STIHLER DELIGHTS IN BLENDING THE SECULAR AND SACRED IN HIS ORGAN PERFORMANCES. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS MUSICAL CREATIVITY AND LIVELY SPIRIT.
MR. STIHLER USES HIS ORGAN SKILLS TO PUT HIS OWN UNIQUE SPIN ON A WIDE RANGE OF MUSICAL STYLES.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3
COME JOIN US AS WE GET TO KNOW JESUS BETTER THROUGH "THE CHOSEN" FILMS ON TUESDAY EVENINGS JULY 11 THROUGH AUGUST 29.
WE WILL BEGIN WITH DINNER AT 6PM. PLEASE CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS TO (828)743-2359 SO WE WILL BE SURE TO HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD.

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



PRAYERS FOR COUNTRY



At all times, and especially around July 4, prayers of our country ground us in thanksgiving and gratitude and remind us that we are centered on the Kingdom of Heaven as we live in this blessed land. To pray for our country is to pray for the well-being of neighbors, leaders, and our heritage of liberty and justice for all. Blessed be the ties that bind.

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. Give grace to your servants, O Lord, public and private.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

(From the Book of Common Prayer, Page 821)

Almighty God, who has ordained that women and men should serve thee in serving one another: have regard, we pray thee, for this nation, straining at this time under many burdens, yet at the same time bearing the fruit of works of compassion and justice. Grant to our citizens grace to work together with honest and faithful hearts, each caring for the good of all, as our Lord Jesus Christ directed; that seeking first thy kingdom and thy righteousness, we may have added unto us the fruits of the Spirit and all those things needed for daily life and the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (adapted from the prayer by Geoffrey F. Fisher 1887-1972)

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 839)

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 258)



BAZAAR BARN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Good Shepherd Announces *A Legacy of Community Capital Campaign* to Fund Purchase of New Bazaar Barn Building



Good Shepherd announced during the Parish Summer Meeting on June 28th plans to purchase the New Bazaar Barn building at 1846 Highway 107 North. We have been renting the building for several months and we will close on the purchase in late November.

A Legacy of Community Capital Campaign has already raised over \$700,000 toward the purchase price of \$1.5M. We are grateful to the Barn Board, Outreach Committee and Vestry for their 100% participation in this effort. During the quiet phase of the Campaign, we have also secured major lead gifts from several parishioners.



As many of you know, when Covid struck in 2020 the annual Auction and Bazaar was cancelled. Sharon Sticker and her team put on their masks and began opening the Furniture Warehouse a few weekends a month, and then every weekend. This pivot was loved by volunteers, donors, and shoppers. Sales increased dramatically.

However, the furniture warehouse was never intended to be a retail space. It lacked HVAC, was prone to flooding and parking was challenging. Following prayerful consideration, lively debates, an exhaustive search and more than a few sleepless nights, nearly the perfect alternative was found.

(continued on page 5)



Good Shepherd Announces *A Legacy of Community Capital Campaign* to Fund Purchase of New Bazaar Barn Building (cont.)



The new Bazaar Barn has a bright, safe selling space, adequate storage, excellent road visibility, parking for almost 50 cars, HVAC, and larger square footage. Renting the building before we purchased has demonstrated just how successful the new space will be. Year-over-year sales increased 108% in May.

Our goal is to fund a major portion of the purchase price through the Capital Campaign. We will mortgage the balance. We hope to keep the mortgage as small as possible, so we can increase our outreach grants. Did you know the Bazaar Barn’s net proceeds go into the Outreach Grant budget to fund the efforts of local charities – never to pay for any church expenses? By 2019, the Bazaar Barn had grown to such a level that we were granting over \$150,000 per year and in 2023 our grants total almost \$300K.

Costs associated with Bazaar Barn

Purchase Price	\$1,491,500
Commission/Closing	\$45,000
Due Diligence	\$20,000
Improvements	\$250,000
Campaign Expenses	\$15,000
Miscellaneous	\$28,500
Major Maintenance Reserve	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$2,100,000



Most people would describe Good Shepherd as the little church with the big heart. We aim to reflect God’s love through our faith in action. If you have not already made your pledge, please join our parish community in this effort. Pledge cards and envelopes will be in the pews, or you can use this QR code to pledge online.

Thank you





HOLY MEN & WOMEN OF JULY

Anne Pauline Murray, Pauli Murray **Episcopal Priest and Activist, 1910-1985** **July 1**



Rev'd Murray was one of the first woman and its first black woman ordained in the Episcopal church in 1977. An educator, lawyer and an activist for civil rights, gender discrimination, and for the LGBT+ community they also coined the term Jane Crow addressing both misogyny and racism in the life of women of color from the late 1940s to their death. Murray was one of 12 co-founders of National Organization for Women, and a professor of African-American Studies at Brandies University. The author of several books including *Proud Shoes*, *Dark Testament*, *Song in a Weary Throat* and posthumously, *Speak a Defiant Word: Sermons and Speeches on Justice and Transformation*, confronted misogyny at Howard University, and Yale University where she was the first African- American graduate of Yale

law school. Although born in Baltimore she lived her grandparents in Durham, North Caroline until moving to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard at 16. There is wonderful film about their life, *My Name Is Pauli Murray*.

Liberating God, we thank you for the steadfast courage of your servant Pauli Murray, who fought long and well: Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear, that we may show forth the reconciling love and true freedom which you revealed in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



HOLY MEN & WOMEN OF JULY

Samson Occom **Witness to the Faith, 1723-1792** **July 14**



Born in a wigwam on Mohegan land, Samson Occom was one of the first ordained Christian Indian ministers. Occom's popularity as an eloquent teacher and spiritual leader grew with Indians over a large part of New England. To accommodate this interest, he decided to form a New England Christian Indian School. The church sent him to England to raise funds, where he collected eleven thousand pounds from wealthy patrons, such as the Earl of Dartmouth and King George. When he returned however, he found his family destitute and his school moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, where it became Dartmouth College. This disappointment was followed by the Connecticut Colony's ruling that

the Mohegans would not be compensated for land they sold to the colony. With the Tribe increasingly penniless and powerless, Occom accepted an invitation for his group to resettle with the upstate New York Oneida. He hoped their new home in Brothertown, New York would free them from additional disappointment. His legacy for the Mohegan people who remained in Connecticut was a reputation for being Christianized, which helped them avoid later relocation.

In April of 2022, Dartmouth College finally agreed to return Occom's papers to the Mohegan Tribe. These papers include some of the earliest examples of written Mohegan Language, an autobiography, letters, and journals.

God, the Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice thunders in the wind: We give you thanks for your servant Samson Occom, strong preacher and teacher among the Mohegan people; and pray that we, cherishing his example, may love learning and by love build up the communities into which you send us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 7

Vestry Officers:

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

Vestry:

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

Ellen Albright, Parish Administrator
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
Janet Prescher, Finance & Accounts Manager
Michael Yannette, Director of Music
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

Church Phone: (828)743-2359

Website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

DANCING WITH GOD

(cont. from cover)

Sadly, bad choices (toe-stepping) and self-will (forgetting of who is in the lead) has happened from Joseph's brothers to Judas to us. Some of the bad things that happen are because of us, not because of natural disasters or other things out of our control. In either case, our faithful God dances on. As Barbara Taylor points out, God does not leave (the dance floor). Instead God takes "the unfathomable wreckage of our lives and making something fine out of them in spite of us." That's redemption. That's God's choice.

Why do bad things happen is one question. How does one respond to bad things, that's the other question. The Prodigal Son made choices, created a mess and came back to the dance. Redemption. Peter was invited back onto the dance floor by Jesus even after his toe-stepping betrayals with the words, "Peter do you love me...feed my sheep."

Using our freedom to stay engaged and in rhythm with God and with each other—especially when bad things happen—is key.

As we think about freedom this July 4—not political freedoms but spiritual freedoms and choices—may we also remember that we need each other, that we are all invited to dance by a faithful and loving God. Redemption from bad things comes from God who leads the way and from us as church dancing together to God's faithful beat.

The words of that old folk tune are true: "I'll lead you all wherever you may be and I'll lead you all in the dance said he."