

SEPTEMBER 2023

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina



HOW MANY TIMES?

How many times has a church billboard given you a smile? You have probably seen some like these:

Whoever stole our AC units, keep at least one. You'll need it where you are going.

Sin burn is prevented by Son screen.

Our church is prayer conditioned.

Tomorrow's Forecast: God Reigns and the Son Shines!

But they are not all about the weather.

I saw one via a post from Madison Avenue Baptist Church, and it really stuck with me.

The most influential person in your life is the one you refuse to forgive.

So true. So similar to the counselor's question to the angry person: "How long would you like to be angry about that?"

Failure to forgive can become a weight, a burden, affecting us...maybe even more so than the initial hurt.

Jesus tried to break through our all-too-human tendencies to hold anger, to hold onto a grudge, in many ways. Foremost, by giving his life and blood "for the forgiveness of sins." Secondly, by giving us the Lord's prayer: "forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Then, there are the parables, like the one slated for Sunday, September 17, from Matthew 18:21ff.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

(continued on page 3)

STATS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 MARK LASSITER
2 BUD MURPHY
3 RODNEY BYARD
4 DEBBIE LASSITER
5 JAIRO ARENAS
8 JIM RECKTENWALD
9 BEVERLY FOWLER
9 SIMMONS TATE
9 BILL HOFFMAN
9 HENRY WASZKOWSKI
9 WELDON HOLCOMBE
11 ANNE DEWEES HART
11 ALISON LEE
11 SYDNEY SINCLAIR
13 LOIS WRANGLE
13 FRANK KELLY
14 HELEN FORTSON
15 VIRGINIA SINK
15 PETER KECK
15 RANDY SCHULER
15 MCKINLEY PUSCH
16 MARY COUNCIL
16 DAVID YOUNG
16 DICK CASSIDY
17 HAYDEN TURNER
18 LEE GRIFFIN
18 SUZY DAVIS
18 SUSAN LEACH
21 BOB CROWDER
21 STEVE HINES
22 FRANCES WHELOCK
22 ANN HOPKINS
23 BOB FEAGIN
25 CYNTHIA PETERSON
27 KATHE CANBY
27 BOB COLLIE
28 PEG KIRCHNER
28 SUSIE GOODE
29 LYNN MEYERS
30 NANCY DUNCAN
30 BOWERS CLEMENT

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

BAPTISMS

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Nathan Hernandez
Born April 6, 2020
Son of Nathan & Guadalupe Hernandez

Brooks Blaylock
Born May 6, 2022
Son of Michael & Caroline Blaylock

WALKING THE MOURNERS PATH

Testimonials



Dear Sharon and Lawson,
Thank you for walking with me, guiding me along this journey, and becoming friends. And, of course, thank you for the flowers!
Love, Daphne

As the weeks progressed I came to realize that the intent is to find peace and happiness in life in the midst of grief. Sharing my story with others and listening to their stories helped to underscore that we are not alone in our grief. I'm very thankful I participated.

-Marsha

Before I close my eyes tonight I want to thank you all three for taking me down the mourner's path! For walking with me and for helping me actually feel closer to John lo' these 5 years! For you have all been with me in so many ways since John's passing. I've made new friends and hopefully we will continue to help each other! Well done good and faithful servants. I love each one of you!

-Sandra



The next session begins Monday, September 11 at 4pm

4 RICK & DONNA BARRS
7 JOE & SUSAN WARREN
12 FRED & MEG BRADLEY
21 WALLY & BEV SEINSHEIMER

24 DICK & MISSY CASSIDY
29 KEITH & KATHERINE CROSTHWAITE
29 RON & CAREY JOYNER
30 SCOTT & SUTTON TURNER

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



(continued from cover page)

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused.

Then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This parable shows us that forgiveness is learned: we learn to forgive because God forgives us first and sets an example for us, specifically in Jesus. THAT example helps to make Jesus the most influential person in our lives. If we miss the memo about forgiveness and fail to forgive (holding onto the hurt), we in some ways are handicapping ourselves, just as the slave did in the parable.

I'm not trying to minimize or down-play the real hurt and trauma that many people have experienced in life. Lack of apology and acknowledgement for those hurts makes things worse. However, we have a choice. Just as God forgives our sins, known and unknown, we can enter into that holy forgiveness ourselves. We can let God's Holy Influence be more influential than the hurt we refuse to forgive (or simply have a hard time forgiving).

God's influence on you, his example for us all, is so compelling. That influence turns hearts and minds and makes our relationships stronger. We were not created to be angry people carrying around grudges, but as created in the image of God, we were created to be forgiving—though it's some of the most difficult work (ministry) that we do on earth.

There's a billboard for that too:

Forgive your enemies: it messes with their heads.

And hopefully changes their hearts...and ours.



OUR BARN CAMPAIGN

Success upon Success

The Vestry, Bazaar Barn Board, and Outreach Grants Committee extend their appreciation and thanks for supporting the Bazaar Barn Campaign with such faith! Pledges from 177 households plus church savings have given us \$1,701,856 million. What generosity! Thank you!!

Eighty-nine of those pledges were for \$1,000 or less.

Sixty-three of those pledges were between \$1,001 and \$10,000.

Twenty-five of those pledges were between \$10,001 and \$150,000.

That broad base of support with multiple-sized gifts is what we hoped for. Every pledge counts, and pledges can still be made going forward.

Also good news:

Over \$600,000 of that total has been contributed already, with more expected before November 1, 2023 (see below). Again, thank you! Of funds collected, some monies have gone directly to Capital Barn repairs and upgrades (improved stairs, porch repairs, rug rack, flooring and other carpentry work, doors and siding.) Still to come is new HVAC, a lift, and improved stairs. All these improvements were planned for in the budget, even as we try to maximize funds at closing for reduced debt payments.

Notice we did not say mortgage. The vestry and finance committee believe that, given contributions so far, and ones expected before November 1, 2023, that we can secure short-term loans from private sources, including our own reserves. In the end, that means fewer expenses at closing, better loan rates, and shorter-term payments until full ownership of the Barn. All that means more funds for Outreach Grants, which is one of our major goals.

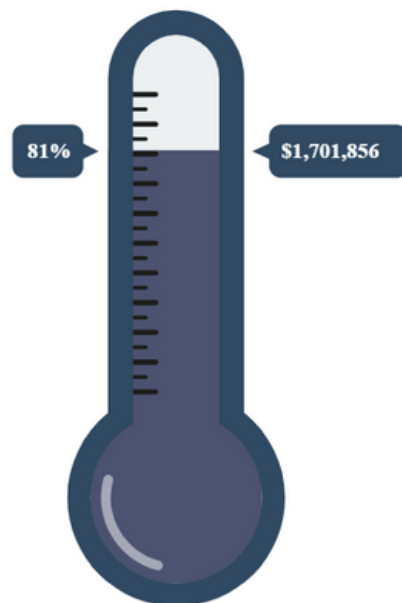
Please make any 2023 Barn gift before November 1, 2023.

Our other main goal is to have as much cash as possible at closing at the end of November. More cash down means a smaller loan amount, which translates into 1) smaller monthly payments and 2) the ability to pay off all loans in two years, by November 1, 2025.

If you made a pledge to the Barn, please complete as much as you can toward that pledge by November 1, 2023. (Of course, if you prefer to spread your giving over 2-3 years, that works too.) In the same vein, any 2024 pledge payment made in January (for the 2024 tax year) allows us to paydown principal early in the year and again, lower our monthly payment.

With God's help and yours, we can have success upon success and continue to grow ministry at the Barn and ministry in the community.

GOAL: \$2,100,000





STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Stewardship 2024:

Our annual appeal letter and pledge cards will go out in early September as we prepare for our ministry and budget in 2024. We usually begin the operating pledge campaign in June or July, but we postponed it this year to have the Barn Campaign (which was very successful, thank you!) Another difference this year: time and talent opportunities will not be publicized with cards to fill out and sign, but in a more personal, week-to-week basis as we highlight specific needs and seek to connect people-to-people throughout the year. Please pray about your pledge for 2024 and continue your involvement of reflecting God's love through our faith (and generosity) in action. Pledges can be made online too.

Walking the Mourner's Path, Monday afternoons, beginning September 11. The ministry of Walking the Mourner's Path seeks to serve individuals who are in grief through a series of Eight Weekly Workshops. (See page 2 for some testimonials.)

Together in the small group workshops individuals:

- Acknowledge the pain and brokenness
- Recognize that each journey through grief is unique
- Share stories
- Experience laughter and tears
- Find healing and joy

English Language Learners resumes on Monday and Tuesday nights beginning September 18 and 19. With Karla Magaña's leadership, ELL is growing stronger and stronger. We have more than 75 adults signed up for three levels of learning. These classes are part of loving our neighbors, which is part of our mission to reflect God's love. Our success also comes from parishioner (and non-parishioner) help with food, set-up, and clean-up on Monday and Tuesday nights. Can you help one night a week? One night a month? Contact Ellen if you would like to join the ministry. Invite a friend to join you, or stop in one night to see what it's all about.

Special Choir Day on September 17. Our sing-a-longs have shown we have many good singers at Good Shepherd, and we can tell that from Sundays too! So we created a special practice-and-sing schedule. We will have rehearsals on Wednesdays September 6 and September 13 at 5 pm. Michael will also make recordings to send out for home practice. Then, the choir will sing at the 11 am service on Sunday, September 17. We hope many will join in!

Also this Fall

- **Blessing of the Animals**, Saturday, September 30, at 11 am at the Village Green
- **Diocesan Convention** in Hendersonville, NC, November 10 and 11th, with guest speaker, the Rev. Becca Stevens, Founder and President of Thistle Farms, Nashville, TN.
- **Fall parish meeting** and vestry elections: Wednesday, November 29, 5 pm



HOLY MEN & WOMEN OF SEPTEMBER

David Pendleton Oakerhater, O-kuh ha-ta Deacon and Missionary, 1931



O God of unsearchable wisdom and infinite mercy, you chose a captive warrior, David Oakerhater, to be your servant, and sent him to be a missionary to his own people, and to exercise the office of a deacon among them: Liberate us, who commemorate him today, from bondage to self, and empower us for service to you and to the neighbors you have given us; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

“God’s warrior” is an epithet by which David Pendleton Oakerhater is known among the Cheyenne Indians of Oklahoma.

The title is an apt one, for this apostle of Christ to the Cheyenne was originally a soldier who fought against the United States government with warriors of other tribes in the disputes over Indian land rights. By the late 1860s Oakerhater, distinguished for bravery and leadership, was an officer in an elite corps of Cheyenne fighters. In 1875, after a year of minor uprisings and threats of major violence, he and twenty-seven other warrior leaders were taken prisoner by the U.S. Army, charged with inciting rebellion, and sent to a disused military prison in Florida.

Under the influence of a concerned Army captain, who sought to educate the prisoners, Oakerhater and his companions learned English, gave art and archery lessons to the area’s many visitors, and had their first encounter with the Christian faith. Later with sponsorship from the Diocese of Central New York and financial help from a Mrs. Pendleton of Cincinnati, he and three other prisoners went north to study for the ministry. At his baptism in Syracuse in 1878 he took the name David Pendleton Oakerhater, in honor of his benefactress.

Soon after his ordination to the diaconate in 1881, he returned to Oklahoma and was instrumental in founding and operating schools and missions, through great personal sacrifice and often in the face of apathy from the Church hierarchy and resistance from the government. He continued his ministry of service, education, and pastoral care among his people until his death on August 31, 1931.

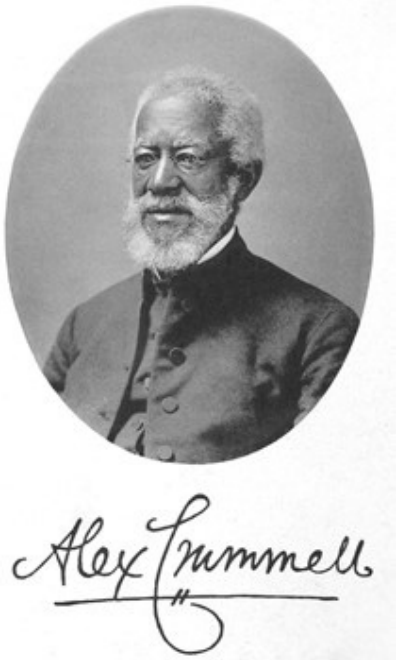
Half a century before, the young deacon had told his people: “You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went first, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all he tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace.”



HOLY MEN & WOMEN OF SEPTEMBER

Alexander Crummell
Priest and Missionary

March 3, 1819 – September 10, 1898



Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the Gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man, he was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York, and rejected for admittance to General Seminary. Ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention.

After receiving a degree from Cambridge, he went to Liberia as a missionary. A model Christian republic seemed possible in Liberia. European education and technology, combined with traditional African communal culture, and undergirded by a national Episcopal Church headed by a black bishop, was the vision espoused by Crummell. He traveled extensively in the United States urging blacks to immigrate to Liberia and support the work of the Church there.

On returning to Liberia, he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition and a loss of funding finally forced him to return to the United States. He concentrated his efforts on establishing a strong urban presence of independent black congregations that would be centers of worship, education and social service. When southern bishops proposed that a separate missionary district be created for black congregations, Crummell created a national convocation to fight the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization.

Crummell's ministry spanned more than half a century and three continents. His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the Church transcended the racism and limited vision of its rulers, and his unfailing belief in the goodness and greatness of black people are the legacy of this Afro-American pioneer.

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

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

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

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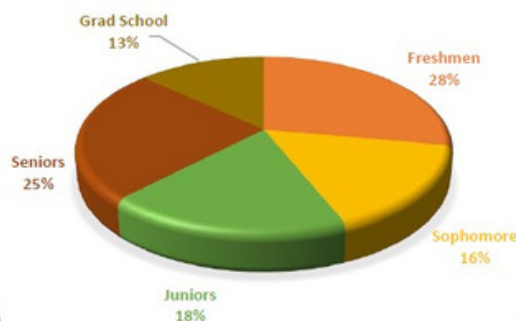
CONKLE-ROWE SCHOLARS UPDATE

30 Conkle-Rowe & Hubbard Fall
2023-Spring 2024 Scholarships

~\$70,000 in Awards

\$2,333 average award amount*

Percent of Classes *By Award Amount*



CoGS Scholars

**estimate, final actuals pending*

This year we have awarded scholarships to 30 students attending 15 different colleges and universities.

The Conkle-Rowe Scholarship Committee decided this year to assign a "Shepherd" for each of our scholars for one on one support throughout the year. These Shepherds check in with our scholars to make sure they have everything they need and we also send care packages several times a year.

The Committee is working towards creating an alumni group and clarifying our guidelines for graduate school support. Are you interested in joining the committee? Contact Kevin Rowland at jkevinrowland@gmail.com

A Prayer for Schools and Colleges

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.