

NEWS



From the Sheep Fold

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church – May 27th, 2020

As time flies by, I'm not sure if this is going to be a weekly update on what's going on in our parish, or one that's published more spasmodically, if you will. One thing I know, I will be depending on you for input. What's going on in your life? This week we have an offering from our Senior Warden. I'd love to include something from you... anything at all. If you have something you'd like to share, please email it to me (timhall00@aol.com) and I'll include it in our next issue.

Wedding Memories!

Did you know that 7 years ago, on Memorial Day weekend 2013, Nancy Kern and John "Jack" Roberts were married at Good Shepherd? What a wonderful day it was and we are so happy God has blessed their "reunion". Happy anniversary Nancy & Jack!

For more photos of their wedding, please visit our Good Shepherd website.



"Life Changed"

by Lois Tapscott

When I think back on the time before this craziness began, I'm all the way back to March 8, our last in-person church service. For me it was a weird service and I was glad when it was over and I could go home.

Life has changed so much. I considered myself a stay at home person until I HAD to stay at home. I guess I didn't realize how much I was out and about with family and friends or just by myself exploring. What was very stressful those first few weeks has now become my new normal and some of it has become enjoyable. I've read a couple good books, read my bible more and watched lots of movies. I've walked every inch of my yard with my dog and watched as he chased birds. What's not enjoyable is not being able to visit my sisters, visit my brother in the nursing home and be with a friend who continues her cancer fight. I want to see two nieces graduate from high school but I'm not allowed. I want to give my sisters, my brother and my nieces big hugs and hold them tight.

I don't want to go back to what was. Moving forward, I want there to be a new normal, kinder people, more respectful, more faithful people. I want fear to be gone. I want to feel safe. I want people to be well!

Upcoming Birthdays

Judy Refo Hall (27 May), Martha Hayes (29 May), Charlene Fu (11 June).

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

If you know of any birthdays I've missed (or I've missed yours!), please let me know.

Facility Improvements

After finishing roof and exterior painting and sanctuary repairs, our next project will be an update to our **Parish Hall, which is in need of a new ceiling and carpet replacement.** We've gotten a couple of bids for this work, but our current building fund balance is not sufficient to undertake the work just yet.

Our estimated cost for this next phase is \$5,600 to \$7,000. We were hoping to have another picnic fundraiser this summer to add to our building fund, after last year's successful event, but that was planned in BC time (**Before Coronavirus!**).

Giving

Thank you so much to all of you who continue to support the ministry and mission of Good Shepherd by sending in your offerings during this time while we are not able to gather.

2 Easy ways to give:

1) Mail: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 324, Bluemont, VA 20135

2) Online: Thru our Diocese of Virginia, which has created a secure link to receive offerings for individual congregations. Go to <http://bit.ly/DOVChurch> and be sure to enter "Good Shepherd, Bluemont" in the memo area.

Fr. Ralph Sermons

Father Ralph has been writing sermons for every Sunday since the pandemic began. His latest, written for Memorial Day, as well as all his Easter and Lenten offerings can be found on our website, at www.goodshepherdbluemont.com under News > Sermons.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 31st @ 10am – The Day of Pentecost: Virtual Morning Prayer

Sunday, June 7th @ 10am – Trinity Sunday: Virtual Morning Prayer

Would you like to try to join us for virtual worship? Here's the link to join the service:

<https://zoom.us/j/2302684545?pwd=aUlxYW9yZWgzTUNMQWJDZTFaE85UT09>

Meeting ID: 230 268 4545 | Password: Get2gether

If you need more assistance, please call Judy Hall at 540-454-2148 or email her at judyrefo@gmail.com to talk about how we can help get you connected.

A prayer for the Future of the Human Race (from The Book of Common Prayer)

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 27 Good Shepherd Road, Bluemont, VA
(in Pine Grove, just west of Snickers Gap and north of Route 7)

www.goodshepherdbluemont.com

May God bless you and keep you!

