

NEWS



From the Sheep Fold

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church – June 13th, 2020

As we continue living in this “new normal”, our current News from the Sheep Fold is becoming more sparse. After all, we’ve finished all the facility improvements we had planned for 2020, made easier, in part, because we were not gathering physically in our church. The roof is mended and painted, the sanctuary wall is repaired and the nave and narthex are cleaned and polished, the whole outside is a new, radiant white, with fresh green trim and red front door, and our bell is ringing once again. But it rings in an empty church. A church where we may not be gathering again for quite some time.

So our main news these days is about how we’re planning, as the larger church, the Diocese of Virginia, to stay safe, continue to worship, help each other, and eventually come back together, physically in His name. The Diocese is working hard to help us all figure this out. We’ll have more news to share on this soon. But, just so you’ll have some idea what to expect when we regather, church will look much different than what we had become used to in BC time (Before Coronavirus).

From the Diocese:

- Shrine Mont Camps camping programs are suspended for this summer.
- In person gathering for worship is suspended at least through the end of June and, after that, only with advance approval by the Diocese after we show that we have addressed all concerns in the “Reopening Guidance Checklist”.

At Good Shepherd, worship will continue using our Zoom meeting format, which we continue to refine. We’d love to hear your thoughts on how we can improve on what we’re already doing. And we’d love for you to join us. More information on how to do so is included later in this newsletter.

In addition to our ongoing virtual morning prayer, on June 7th we heard a homily from our new Diocesan Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor and on June 14th we’ll hear from the Rev. Sarah Brockenbrough, Transition Minister for the Diocese.

What else can we report about during this new normal? We’d love to hear from you... What’s been going on in your life that you’d like to share? Email me (timhall00@aol.com) and I’ll include it in an upcoming issue. Last edition we heard from our Senior Warden. And **this week we have a story from our Treasurer, Cindy Ingram**. Enjoy!

June Birthdays: Charlene Fu (11 June), Sharon Purnell (20 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.

"American Chestnut Story"

by Cindy Ingram

This is an American Chestnut that I found on a mountain top in Frederick County. It was the most beautiful mountain top that I had ever been on. It was full of blooming Mountain Laurel which made it look like a fairy land. I think that The Little Prince would have loved



it, though it may have made him miss his flower even more <with a wink to Martha>.

I wish that I could share the video that I took of the butterflies mating at Cool Springs; they also reminded me of little fairies. It was on a rock which was right by the river. A cluster of about 20-25 butterflies on top of each other like a big butterfly-wings flapping-ball!



The reason that I am looking for chestnuts is because I am working with a foundation that is trying to bring them back from the brink of extinction. Right now, they are classified as "functionally extinct" which means that they can be found but are not able to reproduce at a rate to sustain the population. By taking samples of the survivors, we will be able to capture the local adaptations and put them into the restorative chestnuts that we are breeding. The restorative chestnuts are blight resistant and now will also be locally adapted. The map shows all the places that I have been, so far. I will have a lot more map balloons by the end of the summer!



The American Chestnut was a keystone species and since its demise, many other species, amphibians included, have also seen decline in their population numbers. Further, as a fast growing lumber tree, not only is it economically desirable to have in our forest, but it is also an excellent potential carbon sink. This means that it can help offset our carbon emissions which could help to reduce the effect of global climate change. There are thus many good reasons to bring back this magnificent tree!

You can find more on the story of the blight [here](#), if you would like to read about it. The blight is nothing less than the greatest ecological disaster to have hit the North American continent!

10 years ago at Good Shepherd

by Tim Hall

If you recall the blizzard of early 2010, you'll remember that on 5-6 February it snowed over 30" in Bluemont. Church services were cancelled for a couple of weeks and Judy's and my yard in the Village of Bluemont was crisscrossed by trenches dug in the snow to give us access to the bird feeders, sheds, and compost bin.



When the thaw finally started later that winter, with rain falling on top of the melting snow, the water ran down the mountain in Pine Grove, accumulated at the uphill side of our church, and found its way into the basement, overflowing the sump pump and doing major damage.

Carpeting had to be removed and was replaced with the current floor, drywall needed repair throughout, bathrooms were updated, and industrial fans were blowing for days to dry things out and to clear the mold. Finally, a fresh paint job finished the job. It was quite a project, managed by Lois and Patty Bishop, that cost nearly \$10,000. Thankfully, most of the costs, less our deductible, were covered by our liability policy through The Church Insurance Company of Vermont. And we got a basement refresh to boot!

Giving

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to support the ministry and mission of Good Shepherd by sending in your offerings during these unusual times.

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. They can be found on our website, at www.goodshepherdblueмонт.com under News > Sermons.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 21st @ 10am – The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost: Virtual Morning Prayer

Homily by The Rev. Whitney Edwards, Chaplain, St. Christopher's School, Richmond

Sunday, June 28th @ 10am – The 4th Sunday after Pentecost: Virtual Morning Prayer

Homily by The Rev. Dr. Mary Brennan Thorpe, Canon to the Ordinary

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=aUIxYW9yZWhzTUNMQWJDZTFIaE85UT09>

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.goodshepherdblueмонт.com

May God bless you and keep you!

