

# News from the Mountain Top

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May/June 2023



# Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

## Bishop Visitation, *by Kelly Macoy*

On April 23rd with much anticipation and excitement Bishop Gayle Harris visited Good Shepherd. It had been over three years since a Bishop visited our church. The visit started with a blessing of holy water sprinkled on us by Bishop Harris using a boxwood bough. There were a few parishioners located in the splash zone who received a more substantial blessing.

We then moved onto a lovely service where Bishop Harris delivered a crowd pleasing and captivating sermon. There were numerous snippets to take away from the sermon. A few examples (paraphrased) are: (1) sometimes life is a journey of slow discovery; (2) there is no movie music to let us know what is about to happen; (3) sometimes Jesus is subtly and softly walking with us; (4) you never know who you will meet when you break bread with others.

After the service we adjourned to the parish hall for lunch, fellowship, and conversation with Bishop Harris. Even though Bishop Harris has only been in Virginia for a month, Good Shepherd was already her second visit within the Diocese. During our fellowship time, Bishop Harris shared her background and history. She's visited so many people in so many places. Whether she lived in a parish for years or was just passing through, we could tell she understands so many different walks of life because of her experience. We asked her questions about the Diocese and specific questions about Good Shepherd. Due to



Tim standing by as Bishop Harris blesses the "Asperging Water"



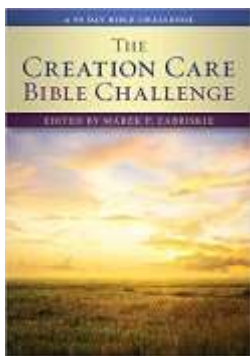
Josette, Christine, and Lee prepare to sing "As the Deer" with Janet

the recent consecration of Bishop Stevenson, some questions could not be answered. Other questions received "What works best for your parish" or "you know the community" as replies. These replies allowed us to reflect upon our parish's strengths and needs, as well as our local community needs.

Bishop Harris' visit was a special day filled with multiple blessings, a memorable sermon, an opportunity to renew our Baptismal vows, and sharing fellowship. We were blessed to have Bishop Harris join us.

## Creation Care Corner: *by Cindy Ingram, Tim Hall, and Judy Hall*

The three huckleberry bushes, three mountain laurel trees, Rosier dogwood, and two chestnuts planted last month have been joined by native Phlox, Geranium, and Yarrow, River Oats, Lady Ferns, and Allegheny Spurge which, once established, will line the pathways with beautiful white flowers. The chestnuts have sprouted! Work on the stone pathways has begun and by the time you read this, it may be done. Come check out the progress. The pollinator garden still needs to be backfilled and filled with plants. We'd love your help. Contact Cindy or Janet to volunteer.



Many of us find peace and comfort in nature. It makes us feel better when we sit by the river, walk by the ocean, or ramble through the woods. Something about being out in nature makes our souls open up to God and his creation. We know we are not solitary creatures, but are part of this wonderful place and time God has created for us.

This summer take some time to explore the Bible in light of our relationship to God and those that share his creation with us. **The Creation Care Bible Challenge**, published by the Forward Movement is a collection of 50 short bible readings from Genesis through Revelation that lead us to examine our Christian responsibility and place in God's Creation.

This is intended to be a daily time for individual meditation, reflection and prayer. You may find it helpful to use a small notebook or notepad to journal your personal reflections on the day's reading. Good Shepherd will hold weekly zoom meetings for those who would like to share their new insights with others.

This is Summertime! Attending the zoom meetings is not a requirement to participate in the challenge. Join them whenever you are able. **Contact Judy Hall ([judyrefo@gmail.com](mailto:judyrefo@gmail.com) or [540-454-2148](tel:540-454-2148)) and Good Shepherd will provide your copy of this book.** Our first meeting will be held on **Monday June 12th at 5 p.m. at the church and via zoom.**

### Food for FISH, by Judy Hall



Good Shepherd has a long standing relationship with FISH of Clarke County. FISH was started in 1968 with the help of many local churches and donors to serve the community as a food pantry. The new "Community Table" mobile food pantry has started coming to the Good Shepherd parking lot in Pine Grove on the first Saturday of the month. Now more food than ever is being distributed in Pine Grove and Shenandoah Retreat.

Lois Tapscott is our focal point for FISH support. Every last Wednesday of the month she gathers all the donations of canned food, dry goods, paper products, and toiletries and puts them in the back of her car for the ride to Berryville.

Please, *when you are doing your grocery shopping, put aside some items for FISH.* Look for good sales. The cost of food has gone up for all of us. Let's help those that are feeling it the most.

← *Lois with our new narthex FISH collection shelves. Our goal is 100 lbs. in May.*

### Church Calendar – All are welcome at our services!

**SUN May 28, 11 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost–Whitsunday: Holy Eucharist with Rev. Rob Banse**

**WED May 31, 9 a.m. – FISH Food Collection donations due in Narthex for month of May delivery**

**SAT Jun 3, 9 to 11 a.m. – FISH Community Table: Social and food distribution**

**SUN Jun 4, 11 a.m. – The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Deb Rutter**

**SUN Jun 11, 11 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Pentecost: Morning Prayer with Cindy Ingram**

**MON Jun 12, 5 p.m. – Kickoff Meeting for Summer book study:**

The Creation Care Bible Challenge: A 50 Day Bible Challenge

**SUN Jun 18, 11 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Eucharist with Rev. Deb Rutter**

**SUN Jun 25, 11 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Eucharist with Rev. Rob Banse**

**SUN Jul 2, 11 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Morning Prayer with Tim Hall**

- AA meets at Good Shepherd every Saturday night at 8:30 pm, in person downstairs or by Zoom.
- The FISH clothing store and food pantry at 36 E. Main St., Berryville is open from 8 to 10 on Tue and Wed mornings. Or contact FISH at 540-955-1823 or via email at [fishfoodpantry@comcast.net](mailto:fishfoodpantry@comcast.net) to schedule delivery.

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Any questions or concerns? We would love to hear from you by email, phone, or in-person:

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