

*News
from the
Mountain Top*
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July/August 2023



*Good
Shepherd
Episcopal
Church*

The Return of an Old Friend, *by NFTMT Staff*

On July 9th Good Shepherd was blessed with a surprise return visit by **The Rev. Canon Michael Tuan Sie**, who joined us all the way from Liberia, West Africa. Michael is on a month-long visit to several churches and friends on the east coast of the U.S., accompanied by his nine-year-old son, Michael, Jr. Upon receiving a phone call from Michael, who had just landed in Tennessee, Tim Hall, our Junior Warden, immediately inquired if he was planning to visit Pine Grove. On learning that he was, the invitation to preach and co-celebrate Holy Eucharist with Rev. Deb Rutter was given and graciously accepted.



Good Shepherd congregants & guests, Rev. Michael and son. in center.

A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Michael has celebrated at Good Shepherd several times in the past. His last visit was in October 2019. Michael currently serves as Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Monrovia and as a secretary to the The Church of the Province of West Africa. He is active with an NGO of interfaith leaders who strive to prevent violence against women and protect women's rights in West Africa. This interfaith coalition uses religious materials from both

the Bible and the Koran to promote loving and respect for one another. They have developed materials in the form of a tool kit to share with churches and mosques to promote the respect of women in their communities.

As rector, Michael has led the St. Thomas congregation in a stewardship campaign funded by the congregation with their Lenten gifts of repentance to the church. With these gifts they are focusing on outreach in four areas in Basa County: prison ministry, orphanages, convent hospitals, and elderly care facilities. In all of these places they provide council, meals, personal items, and friendship.

After the service, during which Michael gave one of his hallmark, inspirational sermons, without any notes (like our own Rev Deb), we adjourned to the parish hall for lunch, fellowship, and conversation.

Sprucing up our Altar, *by Judy Hall*

Many years ago, when Rev. Michael Mohn was ending his tenure with Good Shepherd, he said we should consider getting a new chalice, because the one we were using seemed a little bent. Over the intervening years we hobbled along with an increasingly bent chalice, which made balancing the veil an art form when setting up for communion. When Rob Banse came celebrate on April 16th, Lois was getting nervous because the bend was becoming more obvious and the stem was starting to break. Tim did his best to tape it with silver duct tape. Lois was happy when we had morning prayer. But the next Sunday, April 23rd, we still had the taped chalice when Bishop Harris came to celebrate. Thankfully, the chalice didn't fall apart!



During May I began to look for a pewter replacement chalice. Pewter requires less polishing than silver or silver plate and seemed more appropriate for our little church. My search eventually led me to Jonathan Gibson from

Washington, New Hampshire, a 2nd generation pewter craftsman. I watched his video on how to clean pewter and immediately liked him when he used an old cotton cloth diaper for buffing his hand made pewter pot.



Revs. Deb & Michael
w/ new Chalice & Paten.

Tim and I called Jon. While most pewter chalices are replicas of European designs, Jon recommended the Peter Young Chalice, considered an iconic 18th century American form and attributed to Peter Young, an 18th century American pewter craftsman. While talking to Jon we learned that his father started Gibson Pewter in the 1960s as a sideline to his work as a Congregational minister. Tim's grandfather was a Congregational minister in New Hampshire, as well, which seemed to seal the deal. When Jon heard we were duct taping our chalice, he expedited our order and made the matching paten in one day. Within 4 days the set was on our doorstep. We presented it to Lois at our June 8th Vestry meeting.

Rev. Deb Rutter gifted the church with new communion linens to go with the new chalice and paten. All were blessed for use at our service of Holy Eucharist on June 18th. Thank you, Deb, for that gift!

Did Someone Say Hot Dogs and Ice Cream? *by Tim Hall*

More than 30 friends, congregants, and neighbors attended our Church Picnic Dinner and Ice Cream Social on Saturday afternoon, July 22nd. Folks were well fed with charcoal grilled hot dogs and chicken sausages and many delicious, home-made side dishes provided by members, topped off with brownies and ice cream. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment by The WesCan Jug Band, an 11-member ensemble from Westminster-Canterbury in Winchester, that played sing-along favorites accompanied by guitar, washtub base, and every percussion instrument you could imagine, including rubber squeeze chickens!



WesCan Jug Band

FISH Food, *by NFTMT Staff*

Please don't forget, ***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. Every last Wednesday of the month Lois 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.

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

SUN July 30, 11 a.m. – **Worship, Healing, and Communion with Rev. Rob Banse**

SAT Aug 5, 9 to 11 a.m. – FISH Community Table: Social and food distribution

SUN Aug 6, 11 a.m. – **Transfiguration Sunday** – Worship & Communion with Rev. Deb Rutter

SUN Aug 13, 11 a.m. – **Morning Prayer at Wickliffe Church**, with potluck luncheon under the giant oaks

SUN Aug 20, 11 a.m. – **Worship & Communion** with Rev. Deb Rutter

SUN Aug 27, 11 a.m. – **Morning Prayer** with Josette Keelor. Special guest homilist: Kara Laughlin

WED Aug 30, 9 a.m. – FISH Food Collection donations due in Narthex for month of August delivery

SUN Sep 3, 11 a.m. – **Worship & Communion** with Rev. Deb Rutter

SAT Sep 6, 9 to 11 a.m. – FISH Community Table: Social and food distribution (delayed due to Labor Day)

SUN Sep 10, 11 a.m. – **Back to Church Sunday** – Worship & Communion with Rev. Martha Clark,
followed by a **Ministry Fair in the Parish 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 to schedule delivery.

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