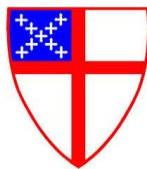
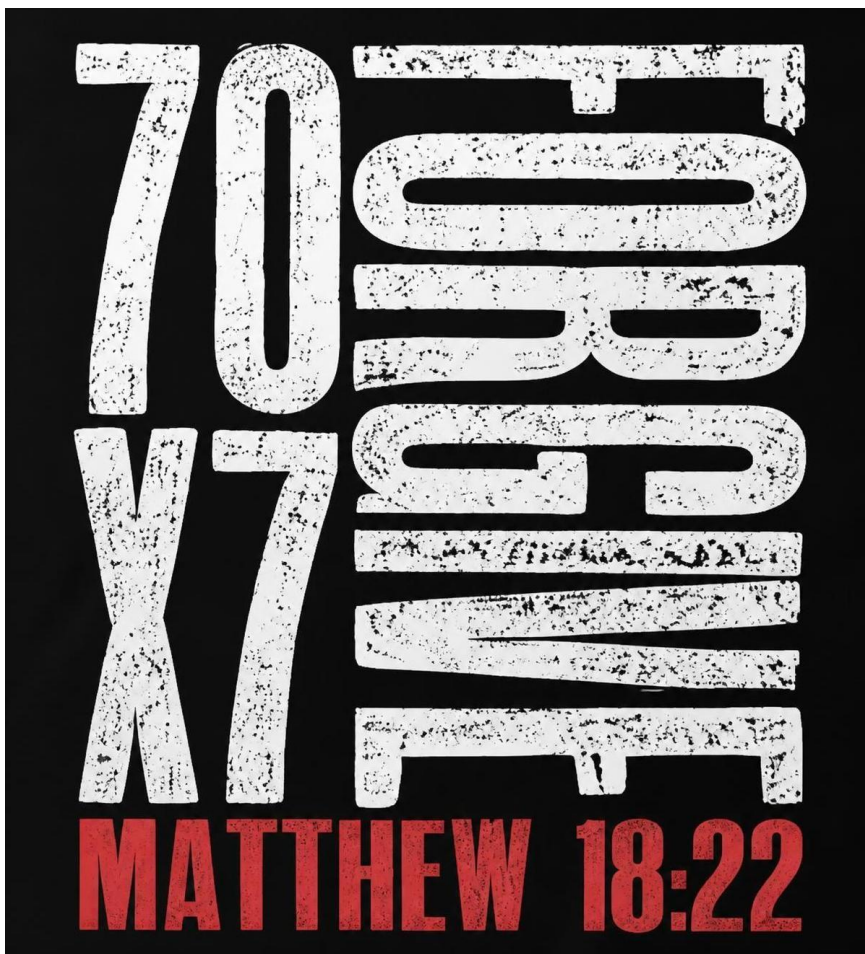


Good Shepherd Episcopal Church



The Village of Pine Grove, Virginia



The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.

Welcome to Good Shepherd Church



Our Vision:

Good Shepherd strives to be a welcoming and nurturing congregation, rooted in the knowledge and love of Christ, and committed to growing spiritually and serving our neighbors.



CALENDAR

- SUN Sep 13** **The 16th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 a.m. **“Modern Parables”** Adult Sunday School
11:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist** with the Rev. Deborah Rutter
- SAT Sep 19** **Bluemont Fair** (all day Saturday & Sunday)
9:00 a.m. **“I Will with God’s Help”** (see Notices)
10:00 a.m. **Vestry Meeting** in the Parish Hall
- SUN Sep 20** **The 17th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 a.m. **“Modern Parables”** Adult Sunday School
11:00 a.m. **Morning Prayer** with Kelly Macoy
Lay Readers: Judy Hall & Rick Whitehouse
Zoomer: Penni Tidwell | Music Leader: Tim Hall
- SUN Sep 27** **The 18th Sunday after Pentecost**
 Last day for FISH food & funds donations
10:00 a.m. **“Modern Parables”** Adult Sunday School
11:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist** with the Rev. Deborah Rutter
Lay Readers: Christine Kestner & Ron Edwards
LEM/Prayers: Kelly Macoy | Zoomer: Penni Tidwell
Music: A Capella



The Pine Grove AA meets at Good Shepherd every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in person or by Zoom.



Women’s Al-Anon meetings at Good Shepherd every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Ladies, feel free to join in.

We do not pass the plate to collect the offering. You may leave your gifts in the offering plate on the table in the Narthex.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Rutter

Lay Readers: Kelly Macoy & Lee Ruddle

LEM/Prayers: Tim Hall | Music Leader: Janet Locklear

Zoomer: Rick Whitehouse

Welcome and Introduction

Opening **Hymn 410** "Praise my soul, the King of heaven"

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

Amen.

The Celebrant prays

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Praise **Hymn 376** "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Reader introduces the first lesson, saying

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Old Testament: Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work

that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

Said responsively by half verse

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Reader introduces the second lesson, saying

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual **Hymn 516** “Come down, O Love divine”

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “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. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Deborah Rutter

The Nicene Creed

The People stand

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form VI

BCP p. 392

The People may be seated or kneel

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For our friends and family: (*see back page of bulletin*). For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For the homeless nearby and across our nation. For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For those suffering from climate change and natural disasters. For migrants and refugees and all who are exploited. For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all people suffering from conflicts throughout the world. May they find a way to peace. For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

In the *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*, we pray today for St. James, Leesburg; Trinity, Fredericksburg; and St. Martin de Porres, Alexandria. In the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer*, we pray today for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops; for Debbie, Rob, Kate, and Martha, our Supply Clergy, and for all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. (BCP p. 816)

Amen.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Christ our Lord. (BCP p. 817)

Amen.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, remembering especially Sandy Silvestro, Sonny Colbert, and Jeannie Light, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Leader continues

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Peace (*the People stand*)

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

THE HOLY AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Offertory

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

Offertory piano music

The People stand for the Doxology

Hymn 380 v.3 “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, p.367

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: [WLP 785]

[Spanish] ***Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora!***

Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor.

[English] ***Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!***

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord.

The People stand or kneel

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

People and Celebrant

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Act of Reception for Spiritual Communion

*The Celebrant invites the following prayer to be said by all **virtual** participants.*

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.

And, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Celebrant says the following

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The people and ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds.

Communion piano music

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

from Enriching Our Worship, p. 69

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people

in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may

proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue

for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the People

Closing **Hymn 411** “O bless the Lord, my soul!”

vv. 1-3, 6

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

NOTICES

OUR COMMUNITY



FISH Mission Statement

“Our mission is to make sure everyone in Clarke County has access to the food, clothing, and support they need.”

Thank you to everyone who makes donations to FISH. Your gifts of food, funds, and time are critical to this ministry. In August, Good Shepherd collected **\$340 for FISH** and Eileen delivered the **51 lbs. of donated food**. Peggy and Janet made 42 turkey slider lunches. Christine made 12 vegan lentil/rice salad lunches. Of course, apple sauce, fruit and fruit cups, trail mix, and chips were available for all.

Please **contact Janet Locklear to help** with this important ministry in our community. **Upcoming “to-go” dates** are Tuesday and Wednesday, **Sept. 29 & 30**.

Also, please remember FISH when doing your grocery shopping and **consider buying a little extra** to give to those in need. ***Weekly donations of a few items by everyone will really add up!***

WEBSITE UPGRADE

Christine Kestner has been working on bringing the new SquareSpace website live. We plan to complete the migration in September, but before we do, please check it out and give feedback: <https://goodshepherdbluemont.org/> Please email any updates, information, and/or photos to Christine. Thank you for your help.

SCHEDULING VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to everyone helping to keep our church running by taking part in the worship services and helping with the altar, teller duties, after church refreshments and cleanup, and so much more. Please be sure to sign up for the fall.

BIBLE OUTREACH

Good Shepherd donated 21 children’s bibles, geared for different age groups, to support Amie Comer’s **Vacation Bible School** Sun., Aug. 30 at **Rose Hill Health & Rehab in Berryville**. Natalie

Sweeney also brought a homemade baked beans dish called “cowboy beans” and Tim Hall played guitar for the residents.

“I WILL WITH GOD’S HELP” – RACIAL HEALING TRAINING!

Join facilitator Gwen Malone, from Clarke Parish, for this new Diocesan program scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch provided) **this Saturday, Sept. 19**, at Grace Church, Berryville. It will include spirit-centered conversations about justice, practical tools for ministry, and liturgically centered racial justice training with a closing Eucharist. Register at: <https://episcopalvirginia.org/event/i-will-with-gods-help-workshop-berryville/>

FORWARD DAY-BY-DAY

Take away copies of the devotional for **Aug-Sep-Oct are available in the Narthex**. We provide Forward Day-by-Day to parishioners as a simple and effective way to have a daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in fewer than 200 words. Please take one home for yourself, and one for a friend.

VESTRY NEWS

At its August meeting, your vestry authorized the following Outreach Projects for the remainder of 2026:

- October Blessings – special call for food and supplies for the Clarke County Animal Shelter during the month of October, including a vestry match of up to \$500 for monetary donations. We’ll be starting with our **“Blessing of the Animals” service on Oct. 4.**
- Blue Ridge VFR – **\$500 donation check has been sent.**
- Christmas Tins – discussed and approved.

The Good Shepherd 2027 draft Budget request to the Diocese was reviewed and approved.

The vestry is exploring the process of retaining part-time clergy, which includes meeting with the Diocesan transition minister to learn next steps and clarifying the financial requirements.

PRAYERS

Please pray for our neighbors and ways to serve the community.

Friends and Family Prayers: Katie & Craig Eney (Andrea's sister and brother-in-law); Bethany Whitehouse; Suffragan Bishop Michael Sie of Liberia; The Aguilar family (Christine's family); Carol Newman (Pine Grove neighbor); Sam Wiggington (Judi Floyd's neighbor); Bob Zidek (Bryan's dad); Judy Anderson (Bluemont neighbor); Brian Sweeney (Natalie's brother); Amie Comer (friend at Rose Hill); Donna Sowder and Terri Huff (Rose's friends); Darlene Schaffer and her friends & family: Sam Myers, John West, and Kenny Lucas; Eileen Cawood; Nancy Kelley, Tammy (Nancy's daughter), and Jennifer (Nancy's granddaughter); Yvette Webster (Rachel's partner); David Aikman (Charlene's husband); Dusty Bailey and Ted Weaver (Charlene's friends); Martha Hayes; Lee Ruddle & Dane Toler; Tim & Cindy Ingram; Kathleen Franz (Kelly's mother).

To add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list, send an email to prayerlist@goodshepherdbluemont.org

In thanksgiving for the lives of

- Sonny Colbert (lifelong Bluemont neighbor), Jan. 17, 1930–Aug. 7, 2026,
- Sandy Silvestro (Rose's friend and our most loyal Zoom worshipper), who died on Aug. 15, 2026, and
- Jeannie Light (Charlene's friend), Nov. 17, 1941–Aug. 22, 2026.



GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 Good Shepherd Road; P.O. Box 324, Bluemont, VA 20135

540-252-5825 | office@goodshepherdbluemont.org

www.goodshepherdbluemont.org

Senior Warden: Judy Hall

Register: Kelly Macoy

Junior Warden: Frank Bredimus

Treasurer: Tim Hall

Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.