

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church



News from the Mountain Top

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October 2022

Meditation Garden Planting

Cochran's Stone Masonry started work on our pollinator garden retaining wall. They laid the footers for the wall and used their heavy equipment to pull up stumps and stones from the central garden.

Tim and crew removed the rubble and leveled the ground to create timber-lined pathways between three garden plots. Topsoil, sand, and leaf compost were delivered to augment the soil. We have over \$1,000 of native plants that were planted by parishioners at a volunteer work day. Cindy Ingram is designating a home for each one.

Saturday, Oct. 22 is our next planting and mulch volunteer work day, starting at 10am. If you would like to help, please contact Tim Hall at 540-454-0564. If you would like to donate any native plants this fall or next spring, please Cindy Ingram at CndyIngram@cs.com.



This Month in Parish History



Sixty years ago, on Nov. 4, 1962, the people of Good Shepherd gathered in the upper room of their new parish hall for a "covered dish" supper. This was a momentous occasion, for the many suppers the congregation had enjoyed together prior to this were always held in their homes. But now, through the hard work of a host of dedicated parishioners, who threw fundraising suppers, held rummage and bake sales, shoveled tons of gravel, and laid concrete block, the addition to Good Shepherd was nearing completion just two years after it was envisioned.

This was no small accomplishment. Good Shepherd's cornerstone had been laid in 1909 and the original chapel was completed in 1910, under the leadership of the Rev. R. C. Cowling, rector of Wickliffe Episcopal. The new church provided a vibrant ministry to the people of Pine Grove, with adult and youth education and a sacred worship space where dozens of souls were baptized and confirmed in the name of Christ. The congregation grew steadily between the world wars.

But by 1956, when the Rev. Charles P. Moncure of Grace Episcopal in Berryville arrived as Priest-in-Charge, the congregation had dwindled to two church leaders. Rev. Moncure told these two ladies, "unless something can be done to inspire the neighbors, I will be forced to close the doors." With his consent, Mrs. Louise McClaughry and Mrs. Naomi Baxter invited everyone in the community to a meeting to reorganize the church. Vestry officers

were elected for the first time, an organist came forward, and volunteers were found to teach Sunday school. By the grace of God, the church was reborn.

By 1960 the congregation was thriving once again. So much so that a new addition was planned; one that would provide meeting and education space upstairs and a kitchen, bathrooms, and dining area downstairs for their famous fundraising ham suppers.

The Good Shepherd building fund ledger showed a balance of \$582.70 at the beginning of 1960. Much more than this was required for the addition, so the good people kept up the good work, at an even more energetic pace. By the end of the year they had quadrupled this amount to \$2,445.29, by "having yard parties, rummage sales, bake sales, white elephant sales, a jar at Sunday school, selling Christmas cards, and donations."

Construction began in June of 1961, even as fundraising continued. With much of the labor provided by volunteers, \$2,677 was spent on materials, including the new tin roof that was raised in November. Fundraisers accounted for another \$1,163 that year, leaving almost \$1,000 in the building fund at the end December. Work on both fronts continued apace through 1962 until, finally, on that chilly November evening, the people of Good Shepherd gave thanks to God as they gathered for their first meal in the finished parish hall meeting room.

Work to complete the project continued for many years, with the addition of a new forced air furnace, indoor plumbing, and a septic tank added in 1971. But it's that special day in 1962 that we commemorate. By God's grace, we stand on the shoulders of these sisters and brothers in Christ, who had a vision and fortitude to see the project to completion. May we take inspiration from them as we strive to do God's work in this community, the nation, and the world.



Two Years With Rev Deb

It was a celebratory Sunday on Sept. 18 when the congregation at Good Shepherd surprised **Rev. Deborah Rutter** with a party to mark her two years as supply clergy with our church.

A beautiful bouquet, a framed print of the church, and a card signed by all in attendance were given to her along with a prayer and our heartfelt thanks. Abundant refreshments followed during coffee hour.

Rev. Deb led her first service at Good Shepherd in the windblown parking lot on Sept. 13, 2020, as we returned from our pandemic shutdown to in-person worship. We were trying something new, including communion of one kind, social distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizer. But we were worshipping together! With our new inspirational spiritual leader, we began a fresh walk by God's grace.

What a long way we've come and what a blessing Deb was then, in our time of need, and continues to be today.



Spiritual Growth

Small groups will start meeting in **November** for **CENTERED**, an Episcopal discipleship series guiding small groups to get deeply rooted in love with God and one another, so that we all may grow to look, act, and love more like Jesus. In each of the nine sessions led by **Rev. Martha Clark**, we will gather to share a simple meal; view short films; discuss questions about God, belonging in community, and living a meaningful life; and deepen our support for each other in intentionally following Jesus and his Way of Love. The study is being offered at two different times: Wednesdays, noon -1:30 p.m., starting on Nov. 2, **OR** Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., starting on Nov. 6. Contact Judy Hall to sign up (judyrefo@gmail.com or 540-454-2148). Rev. Martha Clark can be contacted at marthaekclark@gmail.com or 410-762-9787.

Creation Care Corner *By Cindy Ingram*

The mission of the Creation Care Task Force is to be a sustainable and inclusive network of Episcopalians in the Diocese of Virginia, committed to faithfully uplifting, stewarding and protecting God's Creation. At Good Shepherd Church, we too are committed to caring for God's creation. For this reason, we are installing a native plant garden, using compostable utensils, and forgoing single-use plastics. Beyond that though, we wish to be a source of education for a variety of creation care issues ranging from recycling, environmentally friendly energy, gardening practices, and tax incentives for energy efficient appliances and vehicles. In this vein, we will be offering information in each newsletter about one of these subjects. This month let's talk about Solar!

The Virginia SAVES Green Community Program provides funding for solar (and other energy efficient technologies) to private commercial, industrial, non-profit, institutional, and local government organizations. The website is: www.vasavesgcp.com, the application to apply and information about the process are found there.

For private residences, information on tax incentives and energy buy-back programs to assist the homeowner can be found at the Energy Sage website, www.energysage.com/local-data/solar-rebates-incentives/va/. There are both federal and state incentives, be sure to take advantage of both! Also on the Energy Sage website, a nice introduction to solar can be found, if all this is new to you. That page is: <https://www.energysage.com/solar/>; the first link on the page is the primer on solar energy aptly named, Solar 101!

Suggestions for future articles can be sent to me at: goodshepherd.theologystudent@gmail.com. In the next newsletter, we will look at the state of recycling in the state of Virginia. Thanks, and I look forward to learning more about the many ways that we can care for God's awesome creation and sharing them with you!

Parking Lot Paving

The fresh asphalt paving of our front driveway and parking area is done, including a new, extra wide handicapped parking space. At a cost of \$11,800, we were significantly less than the vestry approved budget of \$15,000. It's gorgeous! Photos don't do it justice. Come see for yourself.



Diocesan News

Bishop Susan Goff to retire in December

Susan Ellyn Goff was ordained in 1980 and began her service in Virginia as a school Chaplain for St Margaret's and St. Catherine's. After serving as Rector of Immanuel, Old Church, and St. Christopher's, Springfield, she became Canon to the Ordinary in January of 2010. The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff was elected as Suffragan Bishop in 2012. Bishop Goff became Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in 2018, upon the retirement of our thirteenth Bishop. Recently, through COVID and chemotherapy, Bishop Goff steered us in her gentle way to the election of our 14th Bishop.

Bishop Goff is a multimedia artist and has offered 33 original works for auction to support the Bishop Goff Fund for Racial Justice Initiatives. The sale is being hosted by Gala-Bid and can be accessed at <https://app.galabid.com/bishopsusangoffart/items>. The site will be accepting bids through 6:30 p.m., Nov. 12. The Transition Committee is collecting letters of appreciation through Nov. 8. Please send emails to bishoptransitionva@gmail.com or by post to: Cindi Bartol, 3709 Fort Worth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. Gifts to Bishop Goff's Retirement and Travel Fund may be made using the diocesan online [giving portal](https://secure.givelively.org/donate/diocese-of-virginia/bishop-goff-s-retirement-fund) (<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/diocese-of-virginia/bishop-goff-s-retirement-fund>) or by check, made out to the Diocese of Virginia, memo line "Bishop Goff's purse," and mailed to The Diocese of Virginia, 110 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220.

Local Events

Oct. 29, 9 to 11 a.m. – FISH of Clarke County's Mobile Community Table invites everyone to Shiloh Baptist Church at 1983 Millwood Road to share recipes, taste prepared food and enjoy snack pack bags for kids, personal care items and more. The Community Table takes place every month and offers a variety of food and household items for everyone in the family. There's also info on benefits from the Department of Social Services. Info: 540-955-1823

Nov. 5, 8:00 a.m. to Noon – Blue Ridge Fire Hall at 131 Retreat Road, Bluemont, will host a blood drive with INOVA and a food drive for Clarke County FISH with a raffle for a prize from Veramar Vineyard. Bring food items for raffle tickets. For more information contact Greg Walker at 571-264-1901.

Nov. 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 9th Annual Bluemont Juried Holiday Crafts Show at the Bluemont Community Center, 33846 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont

Church Calendar - All are welcome at our services!

SUN Oct. 23, 11:30 a.m. – The 20th Sunday after Pentecost: Morning Prayer with Josette Keelor

SUN Oct. 30, 11:30 a.m. – The 21st Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Eucharist and Healing with Rev. Deb

WED Nov. 2, 12:00 p.m. – Centered small group 1 in Parish Hall (initial session)

SUN Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m. – The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints Morning Prayer with Tim & Cindy

SUN Nov. 6, 5:00 p.m. – Centered small group 2 in Parish Hall (initial session)

SAT Nov. 12, 10:00 a.m. – Meditation Walk at Cool Spring Battlefield

SUN Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. – The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Eucharist with the Rev. Martha

THU Nov. 17 – SAT Nov. 19 – The 228th annual convention of the Diocese of Virginia

SUN Nov. 20, 11 a.m. – The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King – Holy Eucharist with Rev. Deb

SUN Nov. 27, 11 a.m. – The First Sunday of Advent: Lessons & Carols – Morning Prayer with Tim Hall

To join via Zoom, go to our website at www.goodshepherdbluemont.org and click the link on the home page.

Outreach



AA meets at Good Shepherd every Saturday night at 8:30 pm, in person or by Zoom.

Drop in or contact:

<https://aavirginia.org/meetings> and search for Bluemont.



FISH of Clarke County (36 E. Main St., Berryville) The FISH clothing store and food pantry are open 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Visitors should wear face masks. Anyone not able to stop by when FISH is open may contact FISH at 540-955-1823 or via email at fishfoodpantry@comcast.net to schedule no-contact delivery.

Good Shepherd gathers donations for FISH every month. Please bring your donations to the church narthex by the last Sunday of the month. Lois, our senior warden, will be delivering the donations on the following Wednesday. In August, we donated 68 pounds of food, including canned goods, cereal, pasta, and lots of eggs, as well as a few paper products and some lotions. The following is a list of items needed:

- Canned meat & fish
- Canned fruits
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Boxed pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Soup
- 100% juices
- Paper products
- Toiletries

Giving

Checks may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to:

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 324, Bluemont, VA 20135

Thank you for your generous support.

Any questions or concerns? We would love to hear from you.

Email us at: office@goodshepherdbluemont.org

or Phone us at: **540-252-5825**

or Visit us at: **27 Good Shepherd Road, Bluemont, VA 20135**