



SEPTEMBER 2021

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina

Rev. Murdock Jones
Farewell Reception
August 1, 2021

The Wider Church

I am pleased and blessed to report that our life together as congregation shows great health and vitality as we progress with the five-year plan mission and vision, even as we recalibrate to the pandemic and to losing Murdock to Chattanooga. The response to 'The Chosen' movie nights is one great sign of vitality with nearly 40 people engaging in the viewing and discussion. (Of course, it's great to have the Memorial Garden project complete and attracting visitors and to have parking lot project completed in the main—with some landscaping to come.)

Even as we focus mainly on our congregational life, we stay connected to the wider church. The Body of Christ has many parts, after all. For a congregation, the parts are people and ministries. For the wider church, the diocese, conferences centers, and groups like the Episcopal Relief and Development make up those parts. This edition of *Tidings* highlights some of the activities and mission of the wider church, of which we are part.

For example, the Diocese of Western North Carolina has a companion relationship with the Diocese of Cuba, in part because our bishop has family ties in Cuba, but also because it's nice to have a companionship with people closer to us than Africa or South America (although those are important places too!). Right now, with Covid and the economy, things are not good in Cuba at all. They need our prayers and our help. Please read the letter from Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio on page 3 and join in praying and assisting the people of Cuba.

The Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) group ministers to people domestically and internationally, whether it's a response to natural disaster, funding people everywhere with microloans, or supporting schools and children. A short article about the ERD ministry is on page 4, and they are asking for assistance with the crisis in Haiti, now..

I recently spent time on a continuing education course sponsored by the Office of Latino Ministry of the Episcopal Church entitled 'Latino Competency Course.' This course spelled out the complex cultural landscape of Latinos in our country, from heritage brought from different countries (Latinos are not all Mexican, of course!) to music, to growing numbers of Latino people in the USA, many being third and fourth generation people, as the recent census data clearly shows. Sixty people from around the country ZOOMed in on this class, and I learned more about the wider church in the context of ministry and welcome to our Latino sisters and brothers. With some of the ideas presented there, I hope we can grow our ELL program by building bridges locally and staying resourced nationally and through the diocese.

Speaking of the Diocese, the wider church includes three great conference centers in Western North Carolina: Lake Logan in Canton, Kanuga in Hendersonville, and Valle Crucis in Valley Crucis. With wonderful accommodations for individuals, families, and churches, these three centers offer retreats to nourish our journey with Christ in many ways. Take a look at the offerings listed on page 5, and if you are interested in going—or in leading a group from Good Shepherd with the incentive of getting a half-scholarship for registration and rallying others—let me know.

Lastly, as we pray each Sunday for Michael our Presiding Bishop, and José our Bishop, remember as well the 111 dioceses throughout the wider church and the 63 parishes, 5 summer chapels, 2 conference centers, 1 retirement community and 1 parochial school across the 28 western-most counties of the state, who collectively witness to God's love for the whole world. We are part of the body, and more, and for that let us give thanks and "equip the saints for the work of ministry!" (Ephesians 4:12)

The Rev. Rob Wood+



September Birthdays

- 2 MARK LASSITER
- 3 RODNEY BYARD
- 4 DEBBIE LASSITER
- 5 JAIRO ARENAS
- 8 JIM RECKTENWALD
- 9 BEVERLY FOWLER
- 9 SIMMONS TATE
- 9 BILL HOFFMAN
- 9 HENRY WASZKOWSKI
- 11 DEWEES HART
- 11 ALISON LEE
- 11 SYDNEY SINCLAIR
- 13 LOIS WRANGLE
- 13 FRANK KELLY
- 14 HELEN FORTSON
- 15 VIRGINIA SINK
- 15 PETER KECK
- 15 RANDY SCHULER
- 16 MARY COUNCIL
- 16 DAVID YOUNG
- 16 DICK CASSIDY
- 17 HAYDEN TURNER
- 18 LEE GRIFFIN
- 18 SUZY DAVIS
- 18 MIKE GLENN
- 21 BOB CROWDER
- 21 STEVE HINES
- 22 ANN HOPKINS
- 23 BOB FEAGIN
- 23 TAYLOR STINSON
- 26 MAXCY BOINEAU
- 27 KATHE CANBY
- 27 BOB COLLIE
- 28 FRED ROBBINS
- 28 PEG KIRCHNER
- 29 LYNN MEYERS

New Faces at Good Shepherd!

We are so pleased that even during this pandemic we have continued to open our doors to our community...and look who has come in! Be sure to introduce yourself!



Jack & Polly Uselton



Cris & Jerry Hayes



Marie & Vernon Krause

Name Correction from August Tidings:



Russ & Nancy Morley



Bert & Anne Pruitt

Stewardship 2022 Campaign making progress!

Pledge Cards and Time & Talent cards are being returned! As of August 19, we have received 109 pledges for 2022 in the amount of \$399,340. Thank you! Our goal is to reach 210 pledges, so if you have not pledged, we hope to hear from you soon. Cards are available online and at the church. We thank you for your generosity and careful consideration as you commit to being part of our mission to reflect God's love through faith in action.

September Anniversaries

- 9/4 RICK & DONNA BARRS
- 9/7 JOE & SUSAN WARREN
- 9/10 JACK & MARY JANE HARVEY
- 9/12 FRED & MEG BRADLEY
- 9/20 JERRY & ISABELLA REEVES
- 9/24 DICK & MISSY CASSIDY
- 9/29 KEITH & KATHERINE CROSTHWAITE

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN AT 743-2359 OR GOODSHEPADMIN@FRONTIER.COM

Bishop Griselda's letter on the Cuban crisis

Call of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, to the Beloved Cuban People:

"Seek good and not evil, and you will live; so will be the truth what you say: that the Lord God Almighty is with you. Hate evil! Love good! Let justice flow like water, and honesty like an inexhaustible spring. -Amos, 5:14, 24.

Being an integral part of this people and country, our entire Church, women and men, laity, clergy and bishops make a call for Peace and Life in this crucial hour that the Cuban Homeland is going through.

On Sunday, July 11, protests took place in various cities of the country due to the difficult economic situation, along with the health crisis that our people are experiencing. The implementation of new Economic Regulations at the beginning of this year, as well as other restrictive measures have aggravated the crisis that had been dragging on for a long time, reaching the extreme situation we are facing today

The permanent lack of basic food products and lack of medicines, among other misfortunes has generated uncertainty, frustration, a sense of being overwhelmed and despair. All of us are experiencing increasing emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual decline. The average salary has been dramatically devalued, made worse by the fact that the most important products are only offered in the new stores for foreign currencies. Electricity generating plants have gone out of operation due to various breakdowns, leading to power outages, which have only added more concern to the population in the middle of summer.

In the midst of so much darkness, we must admire the work of the scientists who, with such passion, were able to obtain vaccines for the relief of the people. And recognize the medical and paramedics who work day and night without rest and with almost no resources trying to save their countrymen, in the midst of the multiplication of contagion on scales never before foreseen. On the other hand, the appearance and dissemination of new COVID strains has increased the number of people infected to a great extent, most unfortunately among girls and boys. The number of deaths has also increased dramatically.

All these issues formed the breeding ground to a great extent, for many citizens to express their discomfort and disagreement publicly in different cities across the country.

Expressing all concerns and frustration is the right of every citizen and every person. The right to freedom of expression in peaceful public demonstrations is a Human Right.

The Church is watching with great concern that spaces and opportunities are not being provided for people to civically express their feelings. As long as they are manifested in a peaceful and respectful framework.

And we make an urgent call that in no way gives rise to provocations, confrontations or any other excessive act that results in violence, aggression, offenses, humiliation, or loss of human life. This doesn't have to happen! That will never be a way forward. Every Human Being is created in the image and likeness of God, which is why they have dignity and a sacred character. Life is the most precious gift.

God urges that reason, sanity and responsibility prevail. The road must be built by all Cuban men and women. There will always be divergences, diverse opinions, different thoughts, there is the richness and integrity of being a collective People. It is necessary to raise the value of dialogue to seek understanding and ways of solving big issues. Likewise, the Church exhorts the pertinent Authorities to promote actions to contain all violence and achieve peace. The confrontation between Cubans is unacceptable.

All Cubans, from one end of this beautiful island to the other, have the same blood, soul and ethos that runs through their veins, which imprints their distinctive Cuban character. We are sisters and brothers forged on solid foundations, like the Cuban "who taught us to think", the Priest and Master Félix Varela, who said: "There is no country without virtue, nor virtue with impiety". And also molded on the thought of the Apostle José Martí of whom each and every Cuban is so proud, and who said: "Every true man must feel the blow that any man's cheek receives on the cheek."

The Church exhorts us to implore God for protection and strength in times of tribulation, for every home, every young person, girl and boy, for the adults and the elderly, for the sick and vulnerable, especially for those who have departed. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can discern in hope the future path. He also makes a call to all who with sensitive hearts to gather resources and send for the suffering, especially for the Province of Matanzas.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we exhort all of our Cuban people: Amen el bien! May Justice and honesty flow like wáter - like an inexhaustible spring!

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Maria Griselda Delgado del Carpio | Diocesan Bishop | La Habana, 12 de julio del 2021.



Episcopal Relief & Development

Mission Statement

Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development faithfully administers the funds that it receives from the church and raises from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.

Mandate

Our mandate comes from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25:

Lord, when was it that

We saw you hungry and gave you food?

We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?

We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?

We saw you sick and took care of you?

We saw you in prison and visited you?

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

—Matthew 25: 37-40 (NRSV)



Three Key Program Priorities

Episcopal Relief & Development facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease.

Our connection to our Anglican partners and local communities on the ground allows us to work in places where few others remain for the long haul and to deliver life-improving results in innovative and unique ways.

We collaborate with communities around the world to address three life-changing priorities – Women, Children and Climate – creating authentic, lasting results that can be sustained by the communities themselves.

Our Work with women



Helping to promote the rights of women and children to move toward the vision that everyone deserves a life free from violence in a society where they are treated with dignity and respect.

Our Work with Children



Supporting and protecting kids under age six, to reach health and developmental milestones. This focus on early development is critical to ensuring they achieve their full potential as future contributing members of their communities.

Our Climate-Related Work



Helping families and communities work together to adapt to the effects of rapidly changing weather patterns. Help preparing for and recovering from climate-influenced events such as floods, hurricanes and other disasters

Responding to disasters in the USA

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program works in areas across the United States that have been affected by disasters. By offering resources and training to help communities prepare for disasters and providing emergency support, we help vulnerable groups of people to make a full and sustained recovery.

Our Church partners are an integral part of these communities; because of our ongoing relationships we are there before others arrive and stay with them for the years of recovery that follow. Episcopal Relief & Development's Disaster Preparedness Initiative equips Episcopal dioceses in the United States to prepare for and respond to disasters. Dioceses that sign on to the initiative receive ongoing training, resources and support from Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program.

When necessary, we may also provide emergency financial assistance to dioceses to supplement these resources, enabling churches to connect with and offer assistance to their most vulnerable neighbors. Emergency funds are distributed through the local bishop's office, often with the help of a Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, who communicates with Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program team.

Donate or learn more

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation/>



Upcoming Retreats at Valle Crucis, Kanuga & Lake Logan



**VALLE CRUCIS
CONFERENCE CENTER**
Deeply Rooted on Sacred Ground

Located on over 450 acres of mountain woodland and verdant farming valley, the Valle Crucis Conference Center is truly one of the more beautiful places on Earth. With its beauty comes a sense of timeless spiritual grace that transcends denomination or faith tradition.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Letters from Prison
Saturday, September 11, 2021
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$47 for program & lunch

Women Writers September Workshop
Thursday-Sunday, September 23-26, 2021
\$319 full; \$126 commuter

Women Writers Halloween Workshop
Thursday-Sunday, October 28-31, 2021
\$319 full; \$126 commuter

Holding Your Joy in an Ever-Changing World
Yoga & Meditation Retreat
Friday-Sunday, November 19-21, 2021
\$280 full program; \$164 commuter

Personal or self-led retreats can be arranged, as well

Phone: 828-963-4453 | **Fax:** 828-963-8806 | **Email:** info@vcconferences.org | **Web:** https://vcconferences.org/



Our full-service conference, retreat and camp center offers more than 35,000 guests annually a variety of accommodations, recreation and programs designed to encourage communion with each other, nature and the Creator.



Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison
Saturday- Friday November 13-19, 2021
Adult Double: \$1,290 (shared room)
Adult Single: \$1,530 (private room)
Commuter: \$936

Knitting & Quilting Retreat
Thursday-Sunday, January 13 -16, 2022
Pricing Details to come soon

Personal or self-led retreats can be arranged, as well

Phone: (828) 692-9136 | **Email:** info@kanuga.org | **Web:** https://www.kanuga.org/



LAKE LOGAN

Lake Logan is often described as "a thin place," where visitors experience the serenity of God's glorious gifts. All are welcome to this special place, where the power of nature's bounty nourishes, restores, and rejuvenates.

Artists in Residence Retreat
Monday- Wednesday, September 27-29, 2021
Double occupancy: \$650
Single occupancy: \$795
Commuter: \$500

Adult Fly Fishing Camp
Monday-Friday, November 8-12, 2021
Single Occupancy: \$1265 Non-participating Guest: \$440
Double Occupancy: \$1065 Commuter: \$925

Personal or self-led retreats can be arranged, as well

Phone: (828) 646-0095 | **Email:** info@lakelogan.org | **Web:** https://www.lakelogan.org/

Book Review

ELEANOR WELLING

Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety
By: Henri J.M. Nouwen, 2019

“At one of the lowest points in his life, Henri Nouwen gave a series of lectures on the importance of following Jesus in an age of anxiety.” This short book, published posthumously, is taken from those lectures. COVID has created an age of anxiety for all of us. In this book, Nouwen gives suggestions on how to overcome that stress and anxiety by following Jesus.

It has six chapters which are based on Jesus’s teachings on love. It offers warm, practical and helpful advice about forming spiritual practices to plug into that love.

The book starts with an “Invitation” from Jesus to “Come and See.” Sometimes people feel there is something missing from their lives. They might sit and do nothing, or they might stay so busy they can hardly think. Jesus invites us to come and see what he is like. Maybe it is he that is missing from our lives. We respond to this invitation, first, by “listening”...listening to people who point toward Jesus and away from themselves. (Fr. Rob? a friend? A stranger?) After listening, if we really want to follow Jesus, we need to ask him how best do I do that? And we have to keep “asking!” That is where our prayers start. The third response is “dwelling” with Jesus. Be very quiet, very still and just be there with him and listen. (It’s not as easy as it sounds, but I recommend it.)

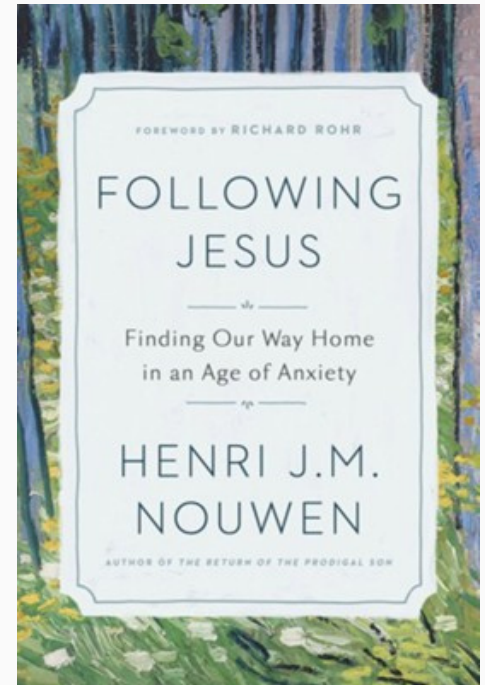
In the second chapter, Jesus calls us to “Come Follow Me.” We are called to move away from a way of thinking that we live in a world of scarcity...that we don’t have “enough”. (Material things, love, security, attention.) We are called to a world of abundance and to a way of thinking about abundance. Fear makes us think in terms of scarcity and causes us to hoard. Love can overcome fear. Love is letting go and trusting that in the letting go, life will multiply. Life will become more. Our response is to take small steps away from “me” and “my fears” toward the Lord. Following Jesus is moving away from fear and toward love. Nouwen suggests using prayer and meditation (being still with Christ) to help us do that.

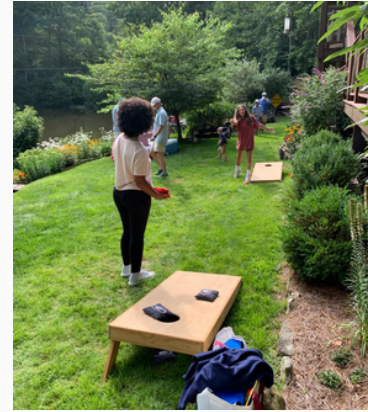
The third chapter is entitled “The Challenge”, and Jesus’s words “Love your Enemies” are featured. Nouwen reminds us that God loved us first, and it is his love that enables us to love one another. - even our enemies. “Love one another because I have loved you first.”

The Fourth chapter outlines “The Cost” of following Jesus with his words “Take up your cross.” This is followed by “The Reward” and Jesus’s words “My joy will be yours.” The last chapter is “The Promise” and Jesus’s words “I will be with you always.”

It’s difficult to outline this little gem in the space allotted. But I invite you to spend some time with it if you would like to deepen your relationship with God. Following Jesus is the perfect way to deepen that relationship.

Henri Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest who left a highly acclaimed academic career at Harvard to share his life with people with mental disabilities. He wrote 40 books on spirituality before dying in 1996.





Family & Youth Events

The photos featured are from the Family & Youth cookout in August at Patch Foster and Kevin Rowland's home in Lancewood. Everyone enjoyed fellowship, fishing, games and dinner. As you can see, it was a great success.



The Reverend Robert B. Wood, Rector
rwood.gs@gmail.com
The Reverend Toby Summerour, Adjunct Priest

Church of the Good Shepherd
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Perrin Dargan, Senior Warden; Patch Foster, Junior Warden;
Irv Welling, Interim Treasurer; Ellen Albright, Clerk

Vestry:

Sandra Swartzfager	Peg Kirchner
Jim Recktenwald	Lenny Blevins
Laura Lankford	Doreen Hastings
Lynn Jones	Mark Quick
Lea Thompson	

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

Ellen Albright, Parish Administrator
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
Christy Banks, Finance & Accounts Manager
Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, Organist and Choir Master
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

Church Phone: (828)743-2359

Website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com



Volunteer Opportunities at Good Shepherd

The Junior Appalachian Musicians

Fall semester at Good Shepherd starting Sept. 13th and meeting every Monday for 12 weeks.

Need: Volunteer to provide a healthy snack, and be on hand from around 3:15 to 3:45ish to serve it.

We are looking for someone who loves to work w/food & enjoys seeing happy kids.

We have an ample budget for reimbursements.

Contact: Debbie Lassiter | Deb.lassiter11@gmail.com | 828-200-0036

The Flower Guild

Need: Ministry Chair. This position will assist with the coordination of altar flowers on a weekly basis.

Contact: Ellen Albright | ellen@goodshepadmin@frontier.com | 828-743-2359

Want to get involved?

Contact Julia Boeve and Rose Mary Achey at VolunteerGoodShep@gmail.com to find out how!