



DECEMBER 2022

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina

WHAT I'VE LEARNED OVER SABBATICAL

Once again, I'd like to say how grateful I am for the time of sabbatical. Renewal, rest, learning, listening—even to the difficult stories—were all part of the time 'unplugged' from Good Shepherd but still plugged into the life of faith, family, and church. Linda and I are especially thankful for extended times together as we made some 'deposits' into the family-time bank.

Of St. Francis, I learned what a reformer of the Church universal he became. Called by Jesus 'to rebuild my church,' Francis on many itinerant journeys brought faith to the people in their language and outside church buildings, for he was not an ordained priest. In many ways, Francis was also a spark for the Renaissance because the people who painted his life and times in the frescoes of Assisi became the forbearers of people like Michelangelo, Botticelli, and DaVinci.

Visits to Francis's tomb—as well as the tombs of St. Paul & St. Peter in Rome, and St. Mark in Venice created space to give thanks for their lives, their witness, their writings that have inspired millions of people around the world for generations. On these rocks, and many others, Christ did indeed build his church. I look forward to sharing these places and others on the Italy Pilgrimage in September 2023. Details coming soon!

Stateside, I learned more about the life of indigenous people, with a special focus on the Trail of Tears. I learned that it's not one trail, but many trails and forced migrations took place over a 20 year period. (That I should have already known!) I also came to realize the displacements were unnecessary, that there was room for all to live and find co-existence, which was already happening in many ways. But sadly, greed and division won out. Walking the Trail passing through Sewanee (where I went to college) made the footsteps they took in the 1830s more demonstrable, but then again, my belly was full, my feet had shoes, and I could go back home when I wanted. That freedom, as opposed to their captivity, really hit home. Had we loved our neighbors or 'done unto others', the whole injustice of forced relocation (and more) could have been avoided.

Likewise, and speaking of injustice, the parts of the Civil Rights trail I traveled in Montgomery and in Birmingham showed me the work of repair and healing that still needs to be done—even with the important work and strides we have made. The slave trade stole 12.7 million people from their homes in Africa and brought them to North, Central, and South America—and to terrible conditions (understatement).

(continued on page 7)



At Blythe's Ferry:
The Cherokee Removal Memorial

STATS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 JOHN CANNON
- 2 ROBERT FORTSON
- 3 LAURA BLACK
- 5 LIZ MCCLURE
- 5 WINTON NOAH
- 5 SUZANNE TURNBULL
- 8 JENNIFER RUSSELL
- 9 SANDRA WALTZEK
- 10 CATHY FOSTER
- 11 MARY CONOVER
- 12 BARON HOLMES
- 14 ROB WOOD
- 14 LAUREN TURNER
- 15 GWIN ROBBINS
- 17 MAURICE SPONCLER
- 17 CLARE CRAWFORD
- 18 CHRISTY BANKS
- 18 JERRY HAYES
- 20 GORDON GRAY
- 21 ELEANOR WELLING
- 21 WYLIE HOFFMAN
- 22 GAIL KECK
- 22 M.J. SOLDI
- 23 CARROLL RIVERS
- 26 RAY MAGARO
- 26 DEBBIE JONES
- 27 JIM SCANLON
- 29 SHEILA CRAWFORD
- 29 KAY MAYBANK
- 29 BRIGGS PUSCH
- 31 MARY LOFTIN

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

ROB & LINDA'S WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION



KIRKIN O' THE TARTANS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20



VISITORS TO GOOD SHEPHERD:

We love welcoming new people to our church and are so excited that the following people visited us this past month.

If you see these people, please introduce yourself!

- Laura Callaway (Forsyth, GA)
- Bruce & Jane Hopkins (Memphis, TN)
- Harriet Shaffer (Atlanta, GA)

- 7 MAURICE & BETTY SPONCLER
- 14 ALFRED KENNEDY & BILL KENNY
- 16 BOB & CHERYL STARKEY
- 19 JOE & KATE GHOLSTON
- 20 RAY & PATTY MAGARO
- 21 DICK & LYNN MEYERS
- 22 BRAD & SHARON VANVICK

- 23 COLLINS & BETTY VALLEE
- 24 TOM & KAREN SNYDER
- 26 MIKE & SUE ANN GLENN
- 27 CLAY & DEBBIE JONES
- 28 MICHAEL & DONNA BORN
- 31 TODD BROADBRIDGE & ALISON SCHULTZ

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN AT 828-743-2359 OR GOODSHEPADMIN@FRONTIER.COM



BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

Our Junior Warden Peter Keck has been super busy these past few months! Here are some of the projects that have been completed:

- Sidewalk repair completed but unable to create sloping handicap access due to the solid concrete underlay of the existing base layer.
- A permanent below-ground water line has been installed from the High Hampton access point.
- Men's bathroom flooring and retile completed.
- Sacristy sink repair and re-routing of side sink into the ground. Sacristy sink faucet replaced.
- Tree trimming and dead wood removal were completed behind Columbarium and in rear Graveyard.
- Sod planting along edges of sidewalk to reduce possible injury and added 2 new Hosta beds along the sidewalk.
- New Basement toilet and new coffee maker installed.
- Metal Road Signposts removed and sanded. To be relocated further up on 107.
- Hemlock Treatment of soil-injection and trunk spraying methods completed by Jo Ann McCall, Appalachian Niche Nursery and Tree. Next treatment should occur 2028.
- Nursery bathroom toilet replaced.
- Privacy fencing installed below deck by Franklin Fencing.
- Extensive Rhododendron trimming southbound on Highway 107.
- Water leak in Hines Hall has been located and a plan to re-route plumbing has been finalized.
- Roof leak has occurred following recent heavy rains. Highlander Roofing has located leak and is making repairs. (week of November 21)
- Kitchen dishwasher is not operating, and new circuit board is on order. (week of November 21)

Future Projects:

- Review Landscaping needs at bottom of the graveyard to block wooden cart path
- Existing Stonework around The Chosen, meditation garden and sidewalk to be pressure washed and sealed in 2023
- HVAC repairs are a major project and will be prioritized.
- Parking Lot lighting improvements require more information from electricians to make better-informed decisions.
- Front entrance handrails to be sanded and painted
- Metal Church Signs delivery date pushed back to 11/30/22
- New Custom Road Sign to arrive 12/6/2022.

Thank you Peter!

NEW MATTRESS MINISTRY!



We have seen a need in the community both for people with un-needed gently used mattresses and box springs and a need for people to have a bed. Skip Ryan has generously volunteered to head up this new ministry of connecting those in need with a bed.

If you or someone you know has a gently used twin, or queen size mattress and box spring to donate, or if you are in need of a bed, please contact Skip at (828)226-2588. Arrangements can be made to pick up any donations. We do ask for a \$40 pick up charge to help defray our costs. Join us in praying for the success of this new ministry!



CELEBRATING THE SAINTS IN DECEMBER

THOMAS MERTON, 1915-1968

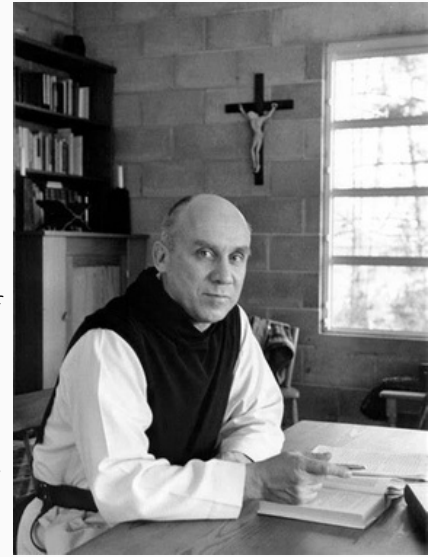
Thomas Merton

Monk, Contemplative and Writer, December 10, 1968

A Prayer of Unknowing

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

~ Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*, page 79.



Thomas Merton was among the most influential Catholic writers of the twentieth century. His writings cover a broad range of subject matter: spirituality and the contemplative life, prayer, and religious biography. He was also deeply interested in issues of social justice and Christian responsibility and did not shy away from controversy and addressed race relations, economic injustice, war, violence, and the nuclear arms race.

Merton was born in France in 1915. After a brief sojourn in England, Merton was baptized in the Church of England. Merton underwent a dramatic conversion experience in 1938 and became a Roman Catholic. Merton recounts the story of his conversion in *The Seven Storey Mountain*, an autobiography published in 1948.

He entered the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, the Trappists, at the Abbey of Gethsemani, near Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1941. Merton's gifts as a writer were encouraged by the abbot. In addition to his translations of Cistercian sources and his original works, Merton carried on a prolific correspondence with people around the world on a wide range of subjects. Some of his correspondence takes the form of spiritual direction, some shows his deep affections for friends outside the community, and much of it demonstrates Merton's ability to be fully engaged in the world even though he lived a cloistered life.

Merton died in Bangkok, Thailand, by accidental electrocution, while attending a meeting of religious leaders during a pilgrimage to the Far East.

A prayer of thanks for Thomas Merton:

Gracious God, you called your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim your justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



CELEBRATING THE SAINTS IN DECEMBER



**WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON
(1805-1879)
& MARIA STEWART
(1803-1879)**

**ABOLITIONISTS AND PROPHETIC
WITNESSES, 1879**

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 17

William Lloyd Garrison was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1805 into poverty. This experience awakened in him a religious zeal for justice and a hatred for slavery. After working on a Quaker periodical in Baltimore, Garrison returned to Boston and, with the help of the black community, started his own antislavery paper, *The Liberator*.

His proclamation of purpose in the first issue became famous around the country: "On [the subject of slavery] I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm ... but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present." *The Liberator* came to be the dominant voice in the abolitionist movement demanding immediate emancipation without compensation to slave owners. Garrison invoked the ire and rage of people all over the country, particularly in slaveholding states. In 1835 an angry mob attacked Garrison who was jailed for his own safety.

In what was a radical policy for the time, Garrison opened up his columns to black and female writers. Among those to respond to his call was Maria W. Stewart, a freeborn African-American woman who showed up at his office in 1831 with several essays that were published in *The Liberator*. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Stewart was orphaned at the age of five and grew up in the home of a white minister. She married James W. Stewart, a successful shipping outfitter, but was widowed just three years later. Soon after she experienced a religious conversion and responded with her vigorous antislavery advocacy. Her efforts called upon African Americans in the south to rise up against slavery and for northern blacks to resist racial restrictions. When her speaking career ended after three years, she became a schoolteacher and then Head Matron of Freedom's Hospital in Washington D.C., which was later to become Howard University.

A Prayer of thanks for William Lloyd Garrison & Maria Stewart

God, in whose service alone is perfect freedom: We thank you for your prophets William Lloyd Garrison and Maria Stewart, who testified that we are made not by the color of our skin but by the principle formed in our soul. Fill us, like them, with the hope and determination to break every chain of enslavement, that bondage and ignorance may melt like wax before flames, and we may build that community of justice and love which is founded on Jesus Christ our cornerstone; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



RELECTION UPON "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

Opening hymn for the first three Sundays in Advent: November 27, December 4, and December 10.

This hymn, originally in Latin, takes us back over 1,200 years to monastic life in the 8th- or 9th-century. Seven days before Christmas Eve monks would sing the "antiphons" in anticipation of Christmas Eve.

The Latin metrical form of the hymn was composed as early as the 12th century. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), the famous architect of the Oxford movement, discovered the Latin hymn in the appendix of an early 18th-century manuscript, "Psalterium Cationum Catholicorum," with a refrain.

British hymnologist J.R. Watson provides a context for the verses included on the second page after the hymn in the *United Methodist Hymnal*: "The [verses], were designated to concentrate the mind on the coming Christmas, enriching the meaning of the Incarnation with a complex series of references from the Old and New Testaments."

Each verse begins as follows:

- O Sapientia* (Wisdom) "O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;"
- O Adonai* (Hebrew word for God) "O come, O come, thou Lord of might,"
- O Radix Jesse* (stem or root of Jesse) "O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny"
- O Clavis David* (key of David) "O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;"
- O Oriens* (dayspring) "O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;"
- O Rex genitium* (King of the Gentiles) "O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;"
- O Emmanuel* "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,"

Put together, the first letter of the second word of each antiphon spells SARCORE. If read backwards, the letters form a two-word acrostic, "Ero cras," meaning "I will be present tomorrow." The "O Emmanuel" antiphon was traditionally sung on the night before Christmas Eve, revealing the meaning of the liturgical riddle through the completion of the acrostic.

Many hymns found in our hymnals transcend centuries, cultures, translations and many variations until we find them in the form that we sing. With this hymn, the essence of the original Latin text remains. By singing "O come, O come, Emmanuel" with the antiphons interspersed, Christians today may participate in a sacred Advent ritual at least 11 centuries old.

Taken from--C. Michael Hawn, D.M.A., F.H.S., from www.umcdiscipleship.org

BAZAAR BARN FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Bazaar Barn's fiscal year end is October 31, and this year we have raised more than ever before...\$360,924! This is thanks to your generosity in donating items, donating your volunteer time to staff the barn, and even shopping and purchasing items. Let's keep it going for 2023!

	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Receipts	\$471,534.85	\$323,587.28	\$266,164.87	\$217,971.48
Total Expenses	\$114,225.55	\$75,317.59	\$35,663.72	\$43,675.72
Gifts to Reduce Expenses	\$3,615.00	\$11,137.00	\$9,514.35	\$4,100.00
NET INCOME	\$360,924.30	\$259,406.69	\$240,015.50	\$178,395.76

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to all who have made a pledge for 2023. To date we have 183 pledges for \$707,010. We are aiming to hear from 200 households, so if you have not pledged, please prayerfully consider all that God has given you, and, in gratitude, and as a cheerful giver, submit your pledge cards online, in church, or via the mail. Thank you!

As we head toward year's end, please remember to fulfill your 2022 pledges. We can end 2022 ahead of budget with strong December contributions. In order to have your pledge counted towards 2022 they must be postmarked by December 31, 2022.

ACCOUNTS	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET 2022
Revenues			
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE	660,798.20	653,000.00	793,000
RESTRICTED REVENUE	44,716.70	43,666.70	52,000
Total Revenues	705,514.90	696,666.70	845,000
Expenses			
PERSONNEL	379,506.95	389,405.80	474,677
WORSHIP/CHRISTIAN FORMATION	29,503.03	28,600.40	33,025
PARISH LIFE & FAMILY ACTIVITIES	15,737.52	12,500.00	15,000
BUILDING & GROUNDS	107,310.62	102,002.10	133,462
ADMINISTRATIVE	113,111.78	121,955.10	144,716
OUTREACH FROM GENERAL FUND	43,000.00	44,120.00	44,120
Total Expenses	688,169.90	698,583.40	845,000
Net Total	17,345.00	1,915.70	0

(continued from cover)

Forms of oppression followed the abolition of slavery, namely lynchings and Jim Crow Laws. Again, the Golden Rule of 'doing unto others as you would have them do unto you' was far from being practiced.

Terror in the form of bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham took place on September 15, 1963, and I stood on November 2, 2022, (The feast of the Faithful Departed) by the monument to the four girls killed just after their Sunday school class. Who would bomb a church? What would be the root of the disregard, hatred, and fear that went into that attack?

Along those same lines, how did lynching people (a method of instilling fear in people of a certain race, to keep them in their place) become acceptable? 5,000+ people were lynched throughout the USA: no justice and no liberty for all. To see the dirt collected from many of those lynching sites, to hear the agonizing family stories, to see the obelisks hanging as a person would hang, was more than sobering. Each obelisk names a county in a state, and on each one are inscribed the names and dates of people lynched in that county. Finding the counties in which I lived and worked, (Jackson County, NC, was not among them) and saying a prayer over those names became a time of petition and lament.

Prayers will continue, as will the listening and learning and looking for ways to be part of the healing and repair that still can be done. We are still neighbors, and by the grace of God will remain so, and better ones at that.

~Rob+

The Reverend Robert B. Wood, Rector
rwood.gs@gmail.com
The Reverend Alison Schultz, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Toby Summerour, Adjunct Priest
The Reverend Steve Hines, Adjunct Priest

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Irv Welling, Treasurer Ellen Albright, Clerk

Vestry:

Peg Kirchner Lenny Blevins
Doreen Hastings Lynn Jones
Mark Quick Vic Brandt
Ruth Russ Kate Gholston

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Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, Organist & Choir Master
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR VESTRY ON OUR TIME OF SABBATICAL

- The need for personal humility - Lenny Blevins
- Healing is possible; God is active and alive and finds a way to bring reconciliation - Alison Schultz
- Sustained and nourished by the Holy Spirit - as a person and especially as a church community. The strength of our congregation was evidenced in the continuity and constancy during the last three months. - Doreen Hastings
- In all my conversations with co-workers I felt a deep sense of support as I undertook a task or continued something under construction. They all were uplifting, encouraging, and positive with their comments. This sense was a deep level of care and love through their spoken words. - Peter Keck
- During this sabbatical I learned to listen better, to seek advice, to remain constant to my duty as a Vestry and Endowment Board Member; to become proactive in my mission to serve; and that the congregation is sustained by the Word and is constant in devotion. - Vic Brandt
- I am truly part of a beloved community! Parishioners at Good Shepherd step up and take care of each other during times of change. We have grown and are strong! (despite wells that go dry, AC that doesn't work, leaks, deaths, sickness, etc.) - Ruth Russ