

The Messenger

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
PO Box 130 Bat Cave, North Carolina 28710

Message from Wes

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and not too bored or stressed out. Times like these can do funny things to our hearts and our minds. Having our sense of “normalcy” ripped from us, and having to learn new ways to fill our time and our thoughts can be unsettling. One of the best ways to maintain our mental and spiritual health is, as always, to try and spend some time focusing on others.

In this newsletter you will see ways that some of your fellow parishioners are reaching out to others. You will also read about some of the ways that your Vestry is trying to support those in need. My simple encouragement to you, find some way to care for others, and turn off the news a little more. In all seriousness, caring for others gives us perspective and purpose. The importance of those two things can not be overstated in the pursuit of good mental and spiritual health. It is far too easy to get into a downward spiral of worry and fear, and caring for others reminds us that there is still good in the world and that we can be a source of that good.

The love of God cannot be confined to houses or buildings of any sort, the only thing God allows to hinder that love is the hardness of our hearts. The fear, the stress, the hatred, and selfishness that is in us is what hampers God's work.

So, what are you doing right now to share God's love?

Bare Necessities

The Bare Necessities Team continues to work remotely making feminine hygiene kits. Susan and Sara have many cotton shield pieces for sewing. Dixie and Kathy (and I to a small degree) have been sewing the shields. We are on our way to having 70 - 80 of them done this month. We have another 20 or so that will be handed off, and then we will begin the snap application fun. Marily is a pro and will head that up along with anyone else who can help.

I've been working on purchasing and stocking the underwear, soap, and hair ties we need to complete the kits. If we are able to have an in-person work day in May we'll be able to kit these up for delivery to Sharon with Sisters of Mercy.

We also delivered our first batch of 10 fidget blankets to Oak Grove Health Center in Rutherfordton and are praying that they bring entertainment and comfort to the residents during this time of restrictions.

Thanks to everyone for your faithfulness to this ministry.

Dawn Milachouski

Bible Study Opportunity: Binge on the Bible

Lisa Fye and Crystal Morrison started a Binge on the Bible weekly Bible study. There has been a lot of discussion of people binge watching shows on NetFlix or other streaming services as a way to fill the time as we social distance. We were talking and thought that using some of our time to really read some of the books of the Bible would be a good option for many of us.

The idea of the class is that each week we will read an entire book of the Bible. We are reading the 4 Gospels and Acts for the class. We met on 4/22 via video/audio conference to discuss the book of Matthew. We will discuss Mark on 4/29, Luke on 5/6, John on 5/13, and Acts on 5/20. Email with the link to the meeting are sent out to all members of the church the first of each week. We have not posted to social media so that we can keep the video conference secure and ensure a good experience for all. If you have questions about the class, email crystalh Morrison@gmail.com

**Virtual Bible Study is wonderful,
but remember when?**

We'll be together again soon!



The Church has left the building! And it is busy ministering to others!
How can you be involved? What are others doing?

Our Parish Family has been busy finding ways to make life a little better for those less fortunate than we. As I put this newsletter together, I was reminded of why I love this Church so much!

The Church's ministries continue and are needed more than ever as we reach out to those who are struggling, so don't forget about your contributions. Mail them to **P.O. Box 130 Bat Cave, NC 28710**.
Carlann

Caring Friends has been an active ministry during this troubling time. This group can provide meals, shopping, and other support for our Church Family. If you have any questions, as to how they may assist you, kindly contact Wes. Wendy

Ways to Help the Community: Steps to Hope Domestic Violence Shelter

Many of us support the Second Chance Thrift Store in Columbus. This store generated 38% of their operating income. With the store unable to open, they need our help now to provide the services that are greatly needed especially during stressful times. Your Vestry has voted to give \$400 to this project, but wants you to have the information also.

Message from BJ Bane, Exec. Director

For 35 years, Steps to HOPE has worked to meet the needs of victims seeking shelter and provided resources to stop domestic violence. Now more than ever *we need your help* to continue to meet the needs of the families we serve. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) domestic violence and sexual assault shelter, we are on the front line, serving critical needs that tend to be exacerbated in times of crisis. Our staff is stepping up and taking extra precautions, keeping our shelter and administration offices open to meet the rising number of domestic violence occurrences. More than ever, people need strength and comfort from Steps to HOPE. Our shelter and resources play a vital role in the lives of those who need us the most.

In order to meet our mission and provide services in our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals in our communities for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we would not be able to serve those who need us the most.

As we go through these unprecedented times together, *we need your help* more than ever. I am asking for your monetary support for our organization. We have suffered a significant loss of income with the closing of our Thrift Store Your donation will allow us to shelter, feed, assist families in staying safe from the threat of violence. Together we can continue to make a difference.

Steps to Hope PO Box 518, Columbus, NC 28722 828-894-2340 [Link to Steps to Hope](#)

Buy a Bag of Grocery Campaign for Displaced Employees of Hickory Nut Gorge

Thanks to the generosity of several participating partners including our Church, the public can participate in buying Ingles' Grocery Cards in \$25 increments. Working closely with the owners of our tourism businesses in the Gorge, employees will be identified and given the grocery gift cards. Chamber staff will oversee the process and ensure that only those locally impacted employees receive this direct assistance. The more grocery gift cards you purchase, the more we can help.

[Here is the link.](#)

Don't forget about our Hospice Pantry.

If you are in Columbus or Forest City, you can drop off donations for the pantry at their offices. The Columbus office is at 155 West Mills Street Suite 108, in the Columbus Commons Shopping Center. Columbus phone 894-7000. *It would be a good idea to call first.*

The Forest City office is at 374 Hudlow Rd, Forest City, NC 28043 Forest City phone 245-0095

Sheltering at Home: How have we ministered to others?

The question was posed by Wes, and I received many responses. Many people are reaching out to others in ways you would expect, but some have been very creative in finding ways to make this time a bit more pleasant for others.

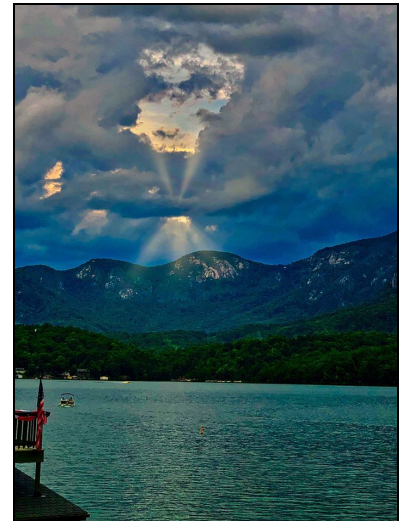


Sharing the Good News:

- Sharing Wes' sermons and messages with others
- Sharing our church website link with a friend who has no Church
- Online Bible Study: Binge on the Bible
- Praying for peace and comfort for every person, for our Church, our community, and the world.

Editor's Pick for Most Creative Ministry to Others:

- Formed a 'grocery group' with 8 families to pick up groceries once a week with lists they provide
- Babysit young children an hour a day to provide the mom an hour 'alone time'
- Putting quirky, humorous writings on FB to add a smile for the day.
- Picking bouquets of flowers to leave on the porches of family, friends, and neighbors.
- Sending Love Letters to family and friends.
- Reaching out on social media to friends and posting only "happy" things
- Daily posting of photos taken on trips or locally to remind people of the beauty that is still around us (Photo to right by Buddy Beautiful!)
- Taking baked goods to my neighbors once a week (Can I be your neighbor?)



Supporting the Business Community:

- Donations to local businesses for later appointments that aren't possible now
- Buying gift cards from favorite restaurants and shops for use when things reopen - [click here for businesses who are participating](#)
- Getting take out from local restaurants to keep people employed
- Making masks for doctors' offices, HNG Outreach, Polk County Schools, Thermal Belt Outreach, nursing homes, and other organizations.
- Working with the Chamber and others to see how we can assist when reopening begins
- Financial support for HNGO since I cannot volunteer now

Supporting Your Neighbors:

- Grocery shopping and deliveries
- Check in by phone or email
- Making sure that birthdays are still celebrated
- Pick up groceries and/or medications for those who can't go out
- Distributing masks made by my daughter to people who can't manage to stay home
- Preparing meals for homebound friends.
- Making the time check on and listen to friends and co-workers who are stressed and struggling
- Encourage and walk with others to get them outside and some fresh air
- Staying away from shopping in the community (but have made up for it online...😜)
- Picked up mail for neighbor who had to go out of town



Making Connections:

- Contacting friends I haven't been in touch with for a while to check on them.
- Interacting with neighbors we don't usually get to see from a distance
- Keeping up connections so people know they are not alone
- Writing letters to those I have lost contact with over the years.
- Calls to support group friends
- Finding ways to get together safely
- Virtual meetings with our Accountability and Discipleship group.

Family Support: Being away from family is hard, especially when there are things to celebrate or when someone needs support. Here are ways your Church family has adapted.

- Virtual lunch with my grandchild via Hangouts.
- Made face masks for family members
- Sent canned and packaged goods.
- Writing actual letters to my granddaughter
- Weekly family video call so a mom, who is self-isolated in her home. This allows her to have contact with 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.
- Checking on unemployed family regularly; offering support; help with repairs around their house; sending homemade food
- Talk, listen and encourage daily a son going through an unwanted divorce.



What have you missed while Sheltering at Home?

- Gatherings with friends
- Visiting our grandkids
- Going to church
- Finding a public restroom when we go for a ride
- Hiking now that parks and trails are closed
- Seeing the children at Church
- A planned vacation cancelled
- Eating at favorite restaurants
- Seeing people on the Flowering Bridge
- Community gatherings



Gathering looks a little different ...



Tailgating It just isn't the same at this distance!



Some have found other ways to gather.

What are the good things about Sheltering at Home?

- It was fun at first. But now I can't wait to get out and see everyone!! I am enjoying planting flowers and working outdoors Barbara
- Cleaning out closets, the garage and going through old videos and old home movies. Nancy S
- Re-started rock painting and started a very small hydroponic garden on the patio Harriet
- I am thankful for time to go for long walks with Carl and Marley, watch a movie together, feed the birds, plan a small garden, read & study. Time to think about past priorities and reevaluate their importance or lack thereof. Sandra
- More time in my Bible since I am not a taxi service since the grands are not able to go to the Boys and Girls Club. Jeanne T
- One good thing about sheltering at home: I've had to find new ways to occupy my time - I learned how to drive a tractor!! Sharon
- Jim and I are not computer experts. In fact, we struggle. However, we now have Zoom, and we are driving our family nuts! We're loving it!!
"Does anyone want to Zoom?" Wendy
- Spring cleaning and purging!! Reorganizing stuff! Kathy
- Keeping busy in my shop. Mike B
- Spending more time together and planning our trip this August/September to the Pacific Northwest. Kathy and Mike
- Learned to make fluffy homemade biscuits and 1001 ways to cook noodles! Diane M
- We are enjoying each other and leisure time to do yard work and odds and ends. Heyward and Nancy
- I love this time of Spring with new flowers and plants in my yard. I've spent a good deal of time gardening. Even though it is hard work I enjoy the beauty of creation and seeing my yard come to life with all the vibrant colors. Dawn
- I have enjoyed potting and repotting plants. Julie
- Many good things are coming out of this "season" in our lives. Families are eating dinner together again, for one thing. I hope we can hold on to all the good things and continue to value them when the restrictions are lifted. Alice and Danny
- My statement on my Facebook page is especially true now: I'm a human being, not a human doing. Alice



Apostle Plants

I have four apostle plants potted and have a big plant that will be divided later when the weather warms up. I will have many available if people want to let me know if they would like one. I should have about 10 of them. Plus they have babies like spider plants do. And there's a bunch of those too. They bloomed like crazy this spring! Even the ones I had rooting in water all winter! If you would like to see what the flower looks like Google apostle plant or walking iris. I will have other house plants available also. Love to all, and happy spring! Julie



Some of the things we miss the most!



Backyard Sports Mondays



Pre Eulogy Dinners



Our New Evensong Service



Easter with our Church Family

Some of the things we miss the most ... continued



Singing in the choir



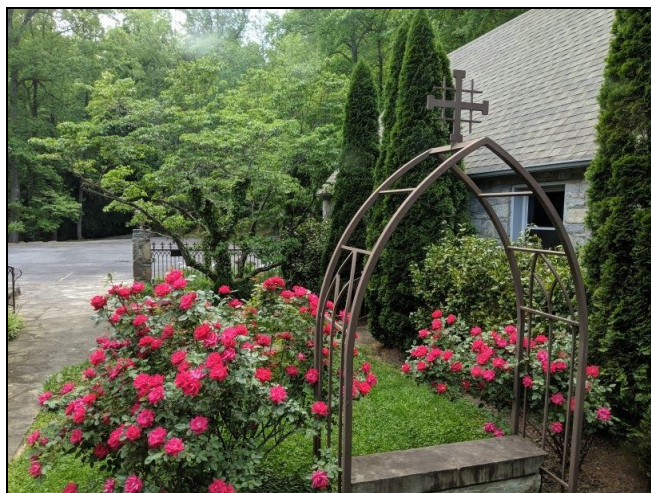
Monthly Dinners



The Children



Firewood Ministry



The Spiritual Garden



Being Together

And we miss



Field trips with M&M and TCW



Hearing the bell ring us to worship.



Vestry Notes

The Vestry had a video conference for its meeting in April. We opened the meeting with the General Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer.

The Vestry is still working on estimates for the roof on the Church and the Rectory. The playground has new mulch and the fence has been sprayed to remove mold and mildew.

We closed on the gift of the land next door. We will receive the documents from Mr. Hurwitz. He did not charge us for the transaction. Rob will be getting a gift certificate to a local restaurant as a thank you.

The Vestry is reading a book on Evangelism and they will be discussing the book at the next meeting.

Happy May Birthdays!

Jaidyn Taylor 6, Joan Summers 10, Nancy Wait 8, Sean Fye 14
Linda Munson and Carlann Scherping 17, Carl Nelson 18,
Suess Fraser 24, Jack Grimsley, Dave Scherping, Harriet Taylor, Jim
Raney 25, Patrick 27, Nina Leighty 29.



Happy May Anniversaries!

Alice Garrard and Danny Holland 3, Tom and Nancy Scott 20, David and Charlene Efird 29

Note: If we miss your birthday or anniversary, please let Carlann know so we can include it in our directory!



Please pray for our men and women in the military and those serving in other areas of conflict: Daniel Crane, Ralph Salamone, Hamilton Jordan, Hunter Fitzpatrick, Zach Poole, Daniel McNary, Buchanan Gault

Those Who Are Sick

Gertrude, Ackie Okpych, JoAnne Okpych, Joanne Woodcock, Barbara Freeman, Nathan Scruggs, Chelsea Parks, Barbara Meliski, Kaitlyn McElreath, Brendan Parks, John & JoAnne D'Onbro, Jordan Mangyn, Teresa Wheeler, Joe, Don, Joe Carter, Angelique, Lynn Morehead, Zeke Riddle, Francesco Giambelluca, Tony Mauldin, Carlton Poutnot, Darlene Spivey, Rosa Norris, Lisa Publicover, Johnny Auld, Rick Covey, Susan Brooks, Richard Glassen, Ned Brown, Aaron White, Charlene Efird, Erna Scherping, Liz Adcock, Miriam McClure, Nancy Sauerwein, Malcolm Tucker, Carolyn Tucker, Dr. Thomas Labreche, Elliot Hodges, Harry Paulus, Paul Raines, Rich Bond, Linda Carter, Gene Seymour, Race Artz, the Webster family, Mary Stroman, Robert Taylor, Gary Seymour, Carol and J Michaels, Joseyln Watkins, Lizzie Hindman

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

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