

Christ Church

Good News and Notes

*** Please note that all new items for this edition are in red**

If it is The Fourth Sunday of Easter... It is Good Shepherd Sunday!

Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd." All of us probably carry an abiding image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. I remember a specific painting I knew as a child and of course since my first church was called Good Shepherd, I received several 'Jesus as the Good Shepherd' in everything from icons to statuettes.

Typically these images feature Jesus as the kind and gentle shepherd cradling a wayward sheep in his arms or across his shoulders as he returns it to safety. When I was a child I found this to be a very soft and comforting image. As I grew up and began to put away childish things, I began to understand the image of the Good Shepherd in a whole new way.

Gone was the image in my mind's eye of Jesus in his soft pink cloak cradling the fuzzy little lamb. I pictured the sometimes dry and dangerous landscape of adult life and gave thanks that Jesus, this Good Shepherd of ours, is the one who guides and guards us around life's jagged rocks, hungry wolves, and steep cliffs.

The countryside around Jerusalem from which Jesus would have drawn his images was arid and often hazardous. The rocky soil was a haven for hungry wolves and a trap for unsteady sheep grazing near cliffs that dropped off sharply into the Dead Sea below.

Good shepherds were vigilant, courageous, tender, and tough. Most important of all, the shepherd had to intentionally work at knowing his sheep, and making sure that they knew him. The shepherd's voice is what shaped, nurtured, and protected the flock. It was the shepherd's voice that drew the lost, the scared, and the wounded back home.¹ Jesus tells us that he is the shepherd and his sheep will listen to his voice.

We all grow up with a variety of voices which shape our lives. Like the Good Shepherd, our parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers, and favorite neighbors have "tended" us—they have touched us, taught us, led and

¹ Susan R. Andrews in "Lectionary Homiletics"

comforted us. They have mentored us and shown us that we matter and they have prepared us for life.

All of them have given us the particular gifts of memory and presence—the gifts of caring for us in ways that affirmed us and they reminded us that who we are in this world matters.

Those who care most deeply for us always want what is best for us. They cry with us when our hearts are broken, they are not afraid to tell us difficult truths when we've lost our way, and they are willing to stand as a bulwark between us and present danger if they see that we are at risk.

Being loved in this way has the effect of "calling us home." Love of this kind does not spare us from the fact that our choices in life have consequences. Not just for us, but for our entire community.

As you know, growing up in the south we learn that as we grow we are understood as a reflection of the values and character of those who tended and raised us. I know when my mother was particularly upset with my behavior she would say: "I did not raise you to act like that!" What kind of things did you hear?

While it doesn't always feel like it at the time, the intent of words like these is to remind us that we are important, that people care about us and that our lives have significance. Those who love us the most will teach us that there is accountability for the choices we make with our lives.

The Good Shepherd's voice is inviting, compelling, affirming, and convicting. This is the voice that issues straight from the heart of God. Jesus tells us: "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father."

We are Jesus' sheep and we are invited to reflect Jesus' goodness in the world so that others may also know this love. We do this by living lives that shine with Jesus' values such as love of neighbor, forgiveness, mercy and compassion.

The Good Shepherd's voice is the one that comforts and restores. We can be sure that the Good Shepherd does not accuse us, threaten us or violate us to bend us to his will when we go astray. And there is nowhere in creation that we can become so lost that God cannot find us and call us home.

This voice of love comes to us, wherever we are, and calls us by name. Jesus calls us into a life of love and abundance with God, and desires nothing more than that we may hear his voice and enter into that abundant life. Not a life free of peril, danger, or pain, but a life lived without fear and measured by endless grace.

Happy Easter,
Stephanie+

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New Address for Fred Hardee:

If you would like Fred Hardee's new address, please check your bulletin or call the office. I'm sure he would love to hear from you!

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Christ Church Celebrates 20 years!

We are celebrating 20 years as a worshipping community, and one fun way we plan to mark the occasion is with a "bumper sticker" slogan! We are a parish filled with creative minds so we ask that you brainstorm and then share your bumper sticker ideas with us. An example of one that will *not* be chosen: "Christ Church, putting God in Good Morning for 20 years!" (Obviously Mary and I have been having fun with it already!).

We'll pick the best 3 ideas from your submissions, share them via our Good News & Notes, and will ask you to vote on your favorite one after we have heard from several of you. The final bumper sticker design will be revealed after the votes are counted.

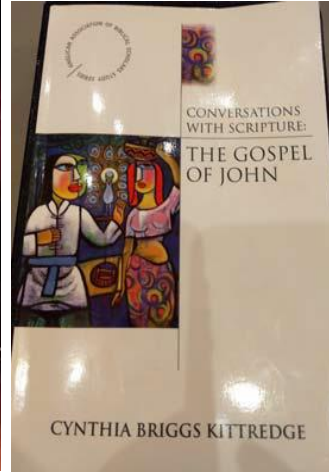
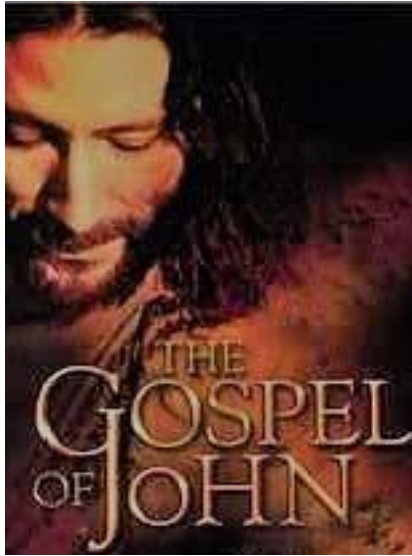
Have fun with it—go wild! To submit your ideas, please send to ccepiscopal@skybest.com. Make sure you include any images and content in the format you prefer. All submissions must be received no later than **Friday, April 27 at noon**. Then watch the GN&N for the top three submissions and instructions on how to vote for your favorite.

We hope you'll join us in this fun way to kick-off our celebration of 20 years of ministry!

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Alleghany Save-A-Pet: An easy way to give back!

The Twin Oaks Veterinary Office has confirmed that they accept empty pill bottles to defray medication costs for local pets. A labeled box has been put under the Information table. If you have empty pill bottles you would like to recycle, please pull off any labels/identifying information and drop in the box.



**Bible Study at the Seckel's Barn on Vestal Road
TONIGHT Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Bible Study on The Gospel of John continues tonight. It's never too late to join this Bible study! Bring your favorite version of the Bible and come join us. Please note that the Seckel's will be away for a few weeks but the bible study will continue at their barn on Vestal Road. Bring a snack to share (if you wish) and your favorite drink. Study begins at 6pm. Martha will open the barn around 5:30. Bring a friend to share this journey into John.

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**Mountain Soul's first event of 2018 will be featuring
Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express!**



Mountain Soul's first event of 2018 will be featuring **Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express**. They'll be performing on **Sunday, April 29th at 6:00 pm**. Mark your calendars now!

"Jonah and Grayson Riddle remind me of a certain kid I used to know around Missouri that would travel anywhere possible to hear Bluegrass Music, that kid being myself. It reminds me of the days when I ate, breathed, and slept the music. They have a burning passion for the Traditional Sounds of days gone by. Dressing the part, singing the style, and playing the old ways. For as young as they are, they are quick studies of the early pioneers. The Carolina soul runs in their veins with grit and desire to make music entertaining and joyous. Youth honoring the fathers is an A+ in my book!"
- C.J. Lewandowski, *Bluegrass Today*

From the hills of Western North Carolina, two brothers set out to show the world their brand of bluegrass music, as so many brother duets have done before them. Jonah, age 18, and Grayson, age 14, grew up playing gospel bluegrass in their church services. From the very beginning the brothers clung to the roots of the music, something that many young pickers tend to overlook. The love for the music pushed Jonah to start his own band, Jonah Riddle and Carolina Express.

Jonah takes care of banjo duties in the group, playing a style that is quickly fading away in today's business. You can easily hear the Stanley, Scruggs, and Osborne influences in his sound, the sounds of the pioneers! Grayson is on guitar and does all of the groups lead singing. Grayson's style of guitar playing will take you back to the days of the great Jimmy Martin; strong, steady rhythm, full of all the runs that helps make bluegrass what it is! The Brothers father, Benjie, holds down upright bass duties for the band.

Jonah and Grayson have had the privilege of picking on stage with many great artists: Doyle Lawson, Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Balsam Range, Ralph Stanley II, Nu Blue, Ricky Skaggs, J.D. Crowe, and Kody Norris. They have performed at many concerts and venues across the country, including: The Ryman Auditorium Courtyard, Dollywood, the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, Woodsongs, the Lyric Theatre in Kentucky, Houstonfest, the North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival, Bluegrass First Class in Asheville, North Carolina, the Earl Scruggs Center, the Pickin' Porch, Tennessee Fall Homecoming, the Carter Fold and the World-Renown WDVX Blue Plate Special in Knoxville, TN. Jonah and Grayson are also members of Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars and have performed at IBMA Kids on Bluegrass in Raleigh, North Carolina. They have won several awards during the time they have been performing such as Best of Show and individual awards for playing their instruments as well.

Jonah is currently endorsed by Deering Banjos, GHS Strings and Peterson tuners. Jonah and Grayson give God all of the credit for the wonderful opportunities that He allows them to have.

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Mailbox changes...

The mailboxes will now be simplified by identifying the COMMITTEE/ROLE rather than the individual's name currently serving in that role. For example, rather than a box labeled "Sheila Pfaender" (who is the current Senior Warden), it's now labeled "Senior Warden." Please make note of that change. If you have any questions, call or email Mary at the church office. The table below will help you find your newly labeled box more easily. We can try it this way for a little while and then see if it is working for us:

Rector	Vestry
Finance Committee	Senior Warden
Treasurer	Junior Warden
Vestry Clerk	Administrator
Altar Guild	
Food & Fellowship	Parish Growth
Mountain Soul	Stewardship
Property Maintenance	Parish Care
Outreach	

Current individuals serving in the above roles:

Rector	Stephanie Parker
Finance Committee	Joe Ritchie, Chair
Treasurer	Geoff Jones
Vestry Clerk	Jann Boggs
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith, Chair
Food & Fellowship	Marybeth Lentz & Eleanor Plummer, Co-Chairs
Mountain Soul	Chance Wyatt & Barbara Halsey, Co-Chairs
Property Maintenance	Phil Donaldson
Outreach	Cynthia Grant, Chair
Vestry	Stephanie, Geoff, Sheila, Phil, Jann, Jeanne, Frank
Senior Warden	Sheila Pfaender
Junior Warden	Phil Donaldson
Administrator	Mary Lee Joines
Parish Growth	Nancy Wilson, Frank Hazard, Barbara Halsey, Cynthia Grant, Larry & Denise Seckel, Co-Chairs
Stewardship	Jann Boggs, Chair
Parish Care	Gary Medley & Eleanor Plummer, Co-Chairs

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Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Daniel, Ed & Jean, Felbert T., Gina D., Jon, Julia, Julie O., Lance & Suzanne W., Laura D., Laura M., Leia B., Linda, Rod & Louise, the Besaw family, and Gary K. on the unexpected death of his son

Departed:

Birthdays: Jeanne Green (April 23)

Wedding Anniversaries: Charles & Sally Besaw (April 22)

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The Food & Fellowship person of the Month for April is Marybeth Lentz. She can be reached at mlentz@skybest.com or 336-657-7088.

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Schedule

Thursday, April 19

6:00 pm – Gospel of John Bible Study at the Seckel Barn

Sunday, April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 25

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express

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If you have any questions regarding anything building or grounds related, please contact Phil Donaldson with your concern.

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For Urgent Prayer Request – Contact Gary Medley. Please be sure to get permission to share any details for the Prayers. Also, if you like to be listed as an Urgent Prayer Partner, please let Gary know.

Great thanks & peace, Gary Medley
gapdweller@gmail.com
336.372.7464 or 336.572.2905

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Prayer requests from the staff and prisoners at River North Correctional Center, Independence, VA

I would like to thank God and pray for all my brothers and sisters and for today and for God's grace, love, peace, and mercy. -RJ

Thank the Lord for this day. Ask for the Lord to be in the hearts of those that are lost and seeking God. Pray for my son. May God continue to be a part of his life. Pray for my family which will be traveling this weekend on the road. -SS

I thank God for another chance at life despite my setbacks and faults. -EE
Pray for my granddaughter and my family.

Pray for me and my family that God will bring us back together as a family again.

Pray that we as Christians do examine ourselves every moment of our days to make sure that we are Christ like and not merely ourselves. Jesus is Lord and is to be obeyed as He commands.

I thank God for everything. I need prayers for my family. Pray for me so that I keep walking a straight line with a goal. -DF

May God continue to love us and forgive us of our sins. May he bring my children and me closer together more than ever. Amen. -SH

I live to pray for my families and friends. -RM

Pray for my brothers here at RN. Amen. -OW

Pray for my spiritual growth. Pray for my family's well-being. Bless my enemies. -KS

Pray for my family, friends, and me. Pray for the officers and the staff. -SS

Pray for my family. -CO

Pray for me and my family. -KL

Pray that good Lord will grant me parole this year.

Pray for my sons. They are strengthening their relationship and their walk with the lord. God bless us all. -MW

Pray for my friend. He has just been able to make contact with his son after 14 years and his mother.

Keep my aunt in prayer. She goes to the doctor next week and she might have cancer. Thanks. -GT

Pray for my children, my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for the volunteers and for the ones who are not saved. Pray for the world and for me. -DR

Pray for my father, aunts, and the rest of my family. Pray for my friends and enemies; for the world, the saved, and the unsaved. -JM

Gambling is for the devil. But a smart man gambling is wiser. See the light and when it gets to the end of the tunnel, you will find blessings. -MJ

Pray for each and everyone. -HR

Pray for all of us in the world; for my family, friends, and enemies. Pray that God forgives me of my sins and keeps me safe. Pray for all who for all who are locked up and sick. Pray for me to stay strong and keep walking with God. Amen. -SP

Pray for each and everyone of us in here. Pray for our families, friends, and enemies. Bless the staff here and their families. Pray for each of our cases. Amen. -KD

Pray for my inner peace and for me to have a better walk with the Lord. Order me steps. I ask that you pray for my family, kids, friends, and enemies. I know Your will Lord. Let Your will be done. In Jesus' name, amen. -LW

Pray for our church leaders and volunteers. Pray for our government and our leaders that every decision made will be in the best interest of 'We the people'. Amen. -FH

Praise God. Pray for all here at RN; for our families and friends on the outside. For them to stay safe and free from harm. -J

Pray for me, my family to have a safe trip this weekend.

May God shelter, give strength to my brothers in Christ who struggle. May God give them comfort in their time of need. Amen. -PP

Pray for a peaceful rest for my grandma. -WG

Lord please show me favor in my parole answer. Glory be thy name. -AR

May God continue to bless us in all of our endeavors and forgive those for being lost.

This little light of mine I am going to let it shine. -MD

Pray for my daughter and her well-being while I am incarcerated.

I would like for the church to pray for my safety back in the pod. I would like to pray for my relationship with a beautiful young lady that our love will continue to grow for each other. -FS