



The Rev. Wes Shields

Throughout the Bible, the people of God are almost always referred to as a nation in the Old Testament, or as a community in the New Testament. This idea of community or of everyone being a part of something larger than themselves or their families is absolutely vital to understanding the way that early church saw itself. In those days the community had to rely on one another for food and shelter, but also for spiritual guidance and encouragement. They believed that they had received an incredible gift, the gift of salvation and the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, and they believed

that it was of the utmost importance that they share that gift of love and mercy with each other and with the world around them. In Acts chapter 4 verses 32-37 tells us about this belief.

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

In our modern world, we have become less dependent on one another for food, clothing, and shelter, and the idea of holding everything in common, communal style, would not be appealing to most of us. However; in our prosperity I believe we have also lost a great deal of our identity as a community of believers, united to achieve one goal; the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Having lost much of the need for monetary support from one another, we have begun to forget that we need each other for spiritual guidance and support as well. Being a part of the church, a part of the Body of Christ, means that we are uniting towards a common goal. Each and every one of us has a special place in the community. For some that may mean teaching in one of our Christian Education programs, for others that may mean participating in our Christian Education program. For others it may mean serving on the Altar Guild, helping with coffee hour after Sunday service, helping with firewood or Bare Necessities , or a host of other

*(Continued on page 2)*

opportunities.

We are not just a bunch of individuals who happen to show up at the same place on Sunday mornings. We are a community of believers, united by a common bond and as with any community; it takes all of us working together to get things done. I want to encourage each and every one of you to get involved in at least one thing outside of Sunday morning, preferably more. We have a wonderful group of people assembled here and we can serve as an enormous source of strength and support to one another in our lives. In order for this to happen, we have to spend time together worshipping, learning, working, and striving to live out our Christian lives together. Please spend some time praying and talking about the many different ways that you can be involved in the life of this parish.



Carlann and I want to thank Laura Shields for teaching Sunday School during the month of July. Our summer plans and the need for a small break made weekly scheduling difficult. Laura stepped up and took control. Thank you so much for sharing your time and your valuable insights with the church's children. You are appreciated!



The beginning of the school year has brought several changes. Wes, Carlann, and I worked together to establish a concrete policy for attendance in the nursery and class. This information, along with copies of Children's Information Sheets for basic information will soon be posted on bulletin boards in both the fellowship hall and the old rectory.

The Children's Sunday School class has grown! Stella Turner, Tucker Shields, and Charley Shirah are regular attendees. They join Emma and Cody Shields in rounding out our full table! We have also been blessed this summer with several visiting children. It is wonderful to see so many smiling faces sitting at our tables. Please share with your friends that our church has an exciting and active children's education program. The Sunday School lesson plan has also changed. Our new focus of study is The Great Commandment - Love God, Love Others, Love Yourself. This important theme will be taught by using a beautiful children's Bible story book written by Desmond Tutu. The cover is posted on our big bulletin board and we have copies of the book for people to look through. We are excited about the year ahead of us. We have new faces, a new curriculum, and new insights to help our children gain strength of character by learning God's love for the world.

Amy

## September Birthdays

Danna Jones - Sept. 3  
Marta Campbell - Sept. 8  
Ackie Okpych - Sept. 8  
Riley Hardy - Sept. 9  
Jed Turner - Sept. 9  
Brady Helms - Sept. 23  
Dawn Milachouski - Sept 23  
Linda Carter - Sept. 28



## September Anniversaries

Michael & Sara Gray - Sept. 1  
Fred & Marion Wilson - Sept. 20  
Norman & Gloria Lyda - September 15



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.



*Please pray for members who are in the hospital and who are sick.*

Gertrude, Ackie Okpych, Berta Whitt, JoAnne Woodcock, Anne Hinton, Barbara Freeman, Betty Zieger, Gloria Anders, Charlene Efrid, Nathan Scruggs, Chelsea Parks, Barbara Meliski, Kaitlyn McElreath, Brendan Parks, JoAnne D'Onbro, Barbara Parks, Carlton Pernell, Jordon Mangun.



## Firewood Ministry

## September Events

Every Monday at 9 am  
Cutting and delivering  
firewood to those in need  
Call Wes for more information

## Vestry Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month  
12:30 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome

## TCW - Sept. 12 at 12:30—bring bag lunch

**Community Dinner**—Dinners resume on **Sunday, Sept. 10 at 4:30.; Sept. 17** Nelsons will show a movie at Community Dinner about the 1906 Flood in the HNG.; **Sept. 24 at 4:30**

## Lake Lure Beach service on Sept 17 at 10

**M&M - Wed., Sept. 20; 1-3 pm** - Come for the fun. An afternoon of all kinds of Games. Prizes, Fun, Friends, Refreshments. Please join us!

**Healthcare Ministry Meeting - Sept. 10th** after coffee hour. Meet in back of parish hall.

Wes blessing someone's pet at the PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) Fundraiser at Morse Park on Aug. 26th. We blessed about 30-40 pets.  
Marilyn



## **TCW: What is TCW up to and how can you help?**

The TCW is collecting supplies for Sole Hope's Outreach House in Uganda. Sole Hope's purpose is to put in place preventive methods to combat diseases that enter the body through the feet and hands. In Uganda, Jiggers, a parasite that burrows into the skin, often ends up crippling the children and adults who have them. One way to prevent them is to wear shoes. Sole Hope employs over 40 Ugandan men and women who make shoes, provide medical help, and run an Outreach facility where those in the worst condition can stay for several days to receive treatment.

Last year our TCW provided uppers for shoes to be sent to Uganda for assembly. In Uganda they distributed over 12,000 pairs of shoes last year serving over 12,000 people. Each month they wash and inspect around 200 individuals and tread them for Jiggers when needed.

Sole Hope is in need of medical supplies, and the TCW is placing a box in the parish hall to collect the following items. These need to be new, unopened supplies.

Large safety pins (this is how they dig out the Jiggers)

Medical gloves - all sizes

band-aids (all sizes)

alcohol wipes

Gauze wrap

Triple antibiotic cream/ Neosporin

Medical tape

If you can provide any of these items, we will be collecting these through September.

For more information, speak to Sandra Nelson or Carlann Schpering

## **Bare Necessities Update**

We are well on our way to satisfying our goal to the Sisters of Mercy outreach need in Haiti! We should have all 300 feminine hygiene kits out to them no later than October. Our church has had an amazing response to this lofty goal. Words of thanks do not do justice for your support!!

Workday Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. Please join us. We will be assembling just over 100 feminine hygiene kits this day!

## August 30 - Wednesday Night Church Dinner

Pastor's Program: our attempt to define Jesus and His relationship with the Father in our creeds

Each Sunday you and I stand and together recite the Nicene Creed as if we are fully aware of the words, concepts and their reason for being. This program gave us the opportunity to connect meaning to the verses.

A creed, of course, is a statement of beliefs intended to identify and unify a religious following. In this case, it is also the basis for the original baptismal *formula*.

Because of numerous large and small faith differences among early Christians which sometimes ended in conflict, bloodshed and societal upheaval, councils were held to establish tranquility. The result of one council in 325 AD was the creed which we dutifully recite today. The creed, according to our pastor, was to basically put to rest the idea that, "Jesus was a second rate version of God" and to confirm the concept of the Trinity.

- Our creed confirms that:
- 1) Jesus was both 100% divine and 100% human
  - 2) Jesus was co-eternal with God
  - 3) Jesus was a part of our Trinity
  - 4) Jesus was the only Son of God, not made or created
  - 5) Jesus was of the same substance with God

Carl Nelson



**Please join us for Wednesday Church Dinner at 5:30 on September 27th.**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

by Joselyn Watkins

Over two years ago Wes Shields announced that The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave would have a Prayer Shawl Ministry.

This ministry is very open and calls for those who wish to make prayer shawls purely by choice. The only requirements for the ministry is that the materials used for the shawls need to be washable They may be crocheted knitted or made of fabric. Jeanette Auld makes quilts as her method of choice. Also, it is desirable that the shawls be large enough to wrap around a person's shoulders.

A good size for the shawl would be 4 feet by 6 feet long. But recently one of our members made a crocheted shawl that fit around another member who was ailing. This shawl was just right for her and it was in a triangular shape.

Most importantly, the very making of the shawls should be done with prayer for the un-known person that it is to be given to while under construction.

Also, when the prayer shawl is completed it should then be given to either Sandra Nelson, Jeanette Auld, Joselyn Watkins or Mary Stroman to sew on a label noting that it is a gift to the person in need from The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave. One of these ladies will then make sure that Wes, our priest, will bless the shawl at one of our services or in private.

Anyone knowing of a specific need for a prayer shawl may contact any of the ladies mentioned in this article.

Another contact is Carlann Sherping who is the present president of TCW as the ministry has been voted on by the ladies of the church to over see this ministry.



Please go to church's website [ectransfiguration.org](http://ectransfiguration.org) to see schedules for:

Lay ministry (coffee hour; ushers, music, lectors, chalice, nursery, altar); Community dinners, etc.



# Inside this issue – September

Rector’s Message	1-2
Children Sunday School	2
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Sept. Events	3
TCW, Bare Necessities	4
Aug. 30 Church Dinner	5
Prayer Shawl Ministry	6
Ministry Schedule for Sept.	6

## Vestry 2017

Please pray daily for the leaders of our church.

Worship & Education	Fr. Wes Shields	625.9244
Senior Warden	Marta Campbell	432.300.9950
Junior Warden	Patrick Warncke	828.722.9258
Finance/Church Treasurer	JoAnne Ellingson	625.9637
	Danny Holland	
	George Desjardins	
Clerk	Michele Yackel	



**The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration**  
 Diocese of Western North Carolina  
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### Weekly Services

Holy Eucharist: Sundays 8:00 am and 10:00 am  
 Holy Eucharist and Healing: Wednesdays 10:00 am

### Bible Study:

Sundays 9:00 am & Wednesdays 11:00 am  
 Children’s Sunday School 10am

**Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:15 am

WHERE THERE  
 IS HOPE,  
 THERE IS *faith.*  
 WHERE THERE  
 IS FAITH, *miracles*  
 HAPPEN.

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