

The Messenger

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
Bat Cave, North Carolina
828.625.9244

Dear friends,

I'm eager to meet you all beginning next week! I'll be in the office getting settled on Tuesday June 27, and will preach & celebrate on July 2 at the 10a service, to be followed by the meet&greet & picnic with your recent supply clergy for the last few months.

Due to the commute time from my home in Asheville I'll be in on Sundays and Tuesdays plus another weekday to be determined, for starters. I'll have a steep learning curve at the onset but I think I can do it.

One of my priest mentors would say, "For you I am a priest; with you I am a Christian." I don't stand on formality very often so I am fine with being called "Rob." If you're more comfortable with "Father Rob" I do not take offense. "Pastor Rob" meets the needs of some from other traditions. I sometimes sign things "Rob+b", which is used by some in writing as a shorthand for "The Rev." That leaves room for you to choose your own favorite form of address.

I'm not coming to you as Interim Priest-in-Charge with a grand plan or goal. I will listen & learn, and do my best to meet your needs. I don't assume in any way that I'm "bringing God to you," for God is already obviously at work at Transfiguration. I too will be seeking the still small voice that can reveal the Spirit's presence.

My email is rob@ectransfiguration.org. I'm looking forward to this!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Rob+



Church Yard Sale

The Church Yard Sale earlier this month earned a total of \$288.50 for the Spiritual Garden, much more of a success than originally thought. It helped some of us clear out some of our junk that became treasures for someone else.

New plants for the garden were purchased from Painters and we hope to get them planted in a few days. A huge "thank you" to those participating in the sale, those who donated items and everyone who came to support the effort. All the rain from above has been a blessing! Now we'll need to pitch in to do the weeding, pruning and planting. [Saundra Nelson](#)

Church of the Transfiguration

What's In A Name?

We are the Body of Christ here at The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. How do you define Transfiguration? What does it mean to you to be an integral part of the Body of Christ at a church named Transfiguration? Have you ever consciously given thought, pondered, or even meditated on what Transfiguration means to you? What Transfiguration means as our church name?

Dictionary.com defines it as *the act or state of being transfigured*. Transfigured is *a change in outward form or appearance*. The definition from Oxford Languages is *a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state*. The biblical spiritual meaning of Transfiguration is *an exalting, glorifying, or spiritual change*.

The truth is that while we are still alive and on this earth we are not going to experience a metamorphism, or change in form like a tadpole to a frog or a caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly. However, each of us can experience a change in appearance to a more beautiful spiritual state (spiritual awakening) for ourselves, our church as the Body of Christ, and for our greater Hickory Nut Gorge Community, as well as to the ends of the Earth.

We have all seen the sun make earthly objects glow more beautifully than their natural state. If we are in the SON and we are filled with the Holy Spirit can we glow more beautifully, more spiritually? The answer is emphatically yes. The Word of God says, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"*, Mathew 5:16.

See link for ways to let your light shine:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/10-ways-you-can-let-your-light-shine-izaac-wambi>

The church, each week in the Transfiguration Tidings, communicates *"together we shine forth with love and light of Christ Jesus."* We, the Body of Christ here at the Church of the Transfiguration, are a shining light at our beautiful little church on our majestic mountain, and we should all look forward to this unified congregation, worshiping together, learning and growing in Christ together as we strive for spiritual maturity, doing fellowship together, celebrating together, mourning together, walking together and just doing **life** together to bring all Honor and Glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are a Transformational church and with God's wisdom, guidance and direction let us do His good works together and fulfill His will in this place and beyond in this our time.

During this month of July I encourage each of us to consciously give thought, ponder and even meditate on what each of us individually, and collectively, as His Body, can do to shine forth with the love and light of Christ Jesus so that our love and light continuously grows bigger and brighter so all may see our good deeds that bring all Honor and Glory to our Father in Heaven.

Let us all prepare our hearts, souls and minds during this month of July in how we will celebrate who we are as the Church named the TRANSFIGURATION at a church wide celebration, where I encourage you to invite family, friends and neighbors as we engage in the Feast of the Transfiguration following one service at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 6th, 2023. Further details will be forthcoming.

God Bless!!!

[Tom](#)

Bare Necessities 2023 - MidYear Update

The Bare Necessities Ministry team has done a lot of cutting, trimming, and sewing this year!! Our working sessions are always full of fun and fellowship.

Diaper Covers: 81

Feminine Hygiene Shields: 98

Flannel Wipes / Inserts: 475

We are so thankful to show our love to our sisters in Christ and their children all over the globe through this ministry. As always PRAY with us! (That our hearts and hands never grow weary of doing the Lord's work and spreading the love of God to his children).



This year all our kits will be going to The Luke Commission (TLC) in Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland). Recently, TLC was deeply honored for His Majesty King Mswati III to grace TLC with his presence for a day of reflection and celebrating miracles as His Majesty officially opened TLC's Miracle Campus Hospital, oxygen plant, and Training and Leadership Centre of Excellence. TLC also hosted U.S. Ambassador Dr. John N. Nkengasong, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Health Diplomacy yesterday on the Miracle Campus. Dr. Nkengasong toured the campus and officially opened TLC's innovation hub, known as Silulu. It is personally exciting for me to see the growth of this incredible ministry started by Harry and Echo Vaderwahl almost 18 years ago. God is truly moving there.

[Dawn Milachouski](#)



Financial Window



Vestry Notes

January - May 2023

	Actual.	Budget
Total Income	\$93,847	\$67,835
Total Expense	\$50,823	\$105,144

Complete financials and minutes of Vestry Meetings are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Defibrillator Training

Your church has purchased a defibrillator. It will be hung on the wall between the church bathrooms. On Sunday, June 4th Parishioners Debbie Dee and Michele Yackel conducted an operations training program for using the defibrillator. The parishioners that participated in the training were Doug and Alieca Bowman, Bud and Dixie Robinson, Patrick Warncke and Tom Scott.

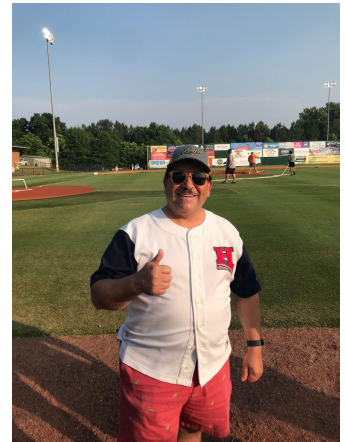
We will be scheduling another training, in between services, on an upcoming Sunday in July. We currently have ten parishioners signed up to participate in that training. If this is something you think you would be interested in, please keep an eye on the tidings for dates and times and let Tom know at trytin03@aol.com.

Transformers Baseball Night

The men of the Transfiguration Church (The Transformers) joined together in fellowship on Tuesday, June 6th at McNair Field in Forest City to enjoy fun, fellowship and some baseball food. Our ticket package included having our church mentioned over the pa system several times, twenty five percent of any merchandise purchases, a food voucher for a hot dog or hamburger, can of soda or water and a bag of chips.

Also included was the opportunity for one Transformer to throw out the first pitch. Representing the Transformers was none other than Patrick Nolan Ryan Warncke. The score to the game got a little lopsided in the 5th inning but the fun and fellowship was great. And it won't be long before we are taken out to another ball game!!!

[Tom Scott](#)



Pre-Eulogy Dinner

Thursday July 20 at 6 pm

Join us at La Strada on the Third Thursday of each month for our Pre-Eulogy Dinners. It is a great way to get to know our parish family a little better. Last month we enjoyed learning about Linda Munson.

Our presenter for the pre-eulogy dinner in July will be one of our best choir members, Edd Williams, who adds so much of his rich and enthusiastic voice to their singing.

[Carl Nelson](#)



Transfiguration Preserve July 2023

Saturday July 8th "The Way of Water" Fly fishing as Contemplative Practice 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Sunday July 9th. "Sacred Saunter" 1:00 – 3:00

Monday July 17th "Yoga in Nature" 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Saturday July 22nd "Forest Bathing" at Grandfather Mountain <https://grandfather.com/event/nature-and-forest-therapy/>

Saturday July 29th "Forest Bathing" 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

[Mattie Decker](#)



CHURCH WORKDAY

With Fellowship, Food and Fun

Thirteen fellow church members: Dixon B., Patrick W., Michele Y., Mike M. Bud R., Richard & Patti G., Charlene C., George V., Skip & Sandy S., Nancy & Tom S., all joined together in fellowship, fun and food. However there was a lot of work involved before we all got to the food. Prior to this workday the firewood Ministry worked three mornings cutting down five trees, trimming others and hauling that debris to the Polk County landfill. We still have several large trees that do not look very healthy. Junior Warden, Patti Glassen will be working with Henderson County to have them evaluated. We will keep you apprised of next steps. Getting back to the workday, the grounds were cleared of fallen branches, the cemetery rim was cleared back to enhance the mowing crews ability to mow the upper cemetery, all gravestones were sprayed with a chemical solution that is used at Washington D.C.'s Arlington National Cemetery, hedges by the road were beautifully shaped, weeds were pulled in the spiritual garden, all plants were watered and it was mowed. Patrick and Dixon made another run to the Polk

County landfill, we started to pressure wash the church entrance and spiritual garden walkway, but the pressure hose broke. Richard will get a new hose and finish the pressure washing.

As you can see your fellow church members accomplished a lot in a little over three hours or I could say for a total of thirty nine person-hours. Appreciation for everyone's heartfelt commitment in giving of themselves, as well as their time and talents, was expressed in a BBQ chicken lunch that included baked beans, mac-n-cheese, cole slaw, watermelon and ice cream cones. But best of all was the fun working together in fellowship.

I encourage each of you to join in and experience the fun of working together in fellowship. "No task is too little" and "Many hands make light work".

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

[Tom Scott](#)

M&M Field Trip

July 13

Meet at Ingles at 9:30 am to carpool

Join the Mature and Motivated who have lately discovered that Magical and Mischievous might better describe them, as they travel off to Strawberry Hill for peaches, lunch, ice cream and other goodies. These field trips are always fun, and this time you also get delicious peaches! Meet at Ingles at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday July 13 to carpool. For more information, contact [Marilyn Floy](#)



Our “Wild Church” Services at Transfiguration Preserve

On May 13th, 2023, an auspicious event occurred in the life of our Church of the Transfiguration, Bat Cave, North Carolina. We began offering an evening Sunday service outdoors, in nature. Each Sunday since then, we have gathered, — neighbors, friends, and some newcomers— first in a circle beneath the Jerusalem Cross on the side of the Sisters of the Transfiguration Retreat House, a mile from our church.

The Sisters who arrived at Bat Cave in 1897 originally, in 1900 built the first church and school at Bat Cave near their retreat house; this land is now conserved for all time through Conserving Carolina and is a “preserve”. In 1915 that first building was moved to the river where it was near the present day Bat Cave Fire Station before finally being built where it is now, well above the river. The original location on the Sisters land is a level spot where there will be a “shelter” built for outdoor events, and this is where on May 13th Revs. Patricia and Stephen Askew celebrated the first service held in that place since the original church held services there..



Why, a “Wild Church”?

We have the Sisters to thank for this, too. When Mattie Decker, an Oblate in the Community of the Transfiguration came here to live in 2017, she learned of the Wild Church Network, through Rev. Daniel London at Christ Church, Eureka, California where the Sisters had served for many years. He was offering “Sacred Saunters” in the Redwood forests there. <https://christchurcheureka.org/sacred-saunter/> When Mattie became certified as a Nature and Forest Therapy Guide with ANFT (the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy) <https://www.natureandforesttherapy.earth/> in Norway in 2019, she joined “The Wild Church Network” as Transfiguration Preserve and began offering “Sacred Saunters” through Conserving Carolina. It was always her “dream” that the Church be able to utilize this land for its services as well.



It was Crystal Morrison’s vision, with the wonderful assistance of her husband, Buddy, who saw this as an opportunity for “Evening Prayer” after our 5:00 pm Taize Services had ended. When the Askews came to us as Supply priests in May, they shared about their experiences on the Pilgrimage they walked in the “Way of St. James” from *France* into Spain. They were interested to help us begin! It was glorious, and each Sunday since then, we have been surprised by the participants—many are children—who are coming to experience this serene and special time of worship in the “wild”.

Crystal’s care and planning has given us a beautiful frame to work within, sometimes from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, as well as our own. Sometimes poems, and as last Sunday, a six-year-old’s spontaneous song of “The Earth is our Home.”

Responses from participants have been positive and we are hopeful that this time of service may broaden our mission and service into the community, for EVERYONE, especially those who may not come to worship inside a building. The canopy of the trees and the beauty in all of nature provide our sanctuary where there is room for all.

The Sisters used to walk to the church from the retreat house and it was “less than a mile” through the forest and winding path. There is work now of locating that path, and perhaps someday offering an experience of a “pilgrimage” here. We are also working to create a path (and bridge over the “Holy Gully” - on the Church’s newly acquired land) so that these services may soon be right here on our property.

[Mattie Decker](#)



Happy July Birthdays!

Nancy Scott 12, Rob Fye 13, Fred Wilson 17,
Kieley Milachouski 19, Dixie Robinson 20, Jeanne Taylor 21,
Nancy McNary 24, Patti Glassen 25

Happy July Anniversaries!

Julie and Mike Maziarka 5, Amy and Jeff Neal 26



Remembering Who Are Sick



Sam Thompson, Harriet Taylor, Linda Carter, Lynn Morehead,
Gary Seymour, Linda Munson, Sandra Chalker, Steve Gale,
Carol Michael, J Michael, Robert Taylor, Marion Wilson, Jeanette Auld,
Theodore Fassett, Michael Webster, Erna Scherping, April Schick, Janet &
Charles Gatch, Theresa Hinajosa, Barbara Nottigham, Heyward & Nancy
Nettles, Bernice Liverett, Jennifer Whiteside, Scott and Karen Meyers, Gracie Johnson Hutchinson,
Harold Knipp, Tana Scheidt, Pam Keith, Tom Graham, Cathie Dabrowski, Junior Lawter, Tony
Maulden, Lew Thatcher, Tony Maulden, Michael Okpych, Michael Wheeler,
Sheila Bradner, Pamela Mumby, Holly Williams

***Please pray for our men and women in the military and those
serving in other areas of conflict:***

Please pray for our Vestry and Church Leadership

Tom Scott Sr. Warden 813-477-5430.
Patti Glassen Jr. Warden
Dawn Milachouski
JoAnne Ellingson Church Finance 625-9637.
Carlann Scherping Clerk of Vestry

Mattie Decker
Buddy Morrison
Charlene Cassidy
Mattie Decker
Mike Maziarka

Please pray for our New Rector Search Committee

Nancy Scott, Chair
Dawn Milachouski, Vestry Liaison
Julie Maziarka

Carl Nelson
Crystal Morrison
Marilyn Floyd

Prayer for Our Parish Discernment

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family.
Guide us in our discernment that with thankful hearts we may seek and call our next rector in accordance with
your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*