

The Messenger

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

Transfiguration

Our parish feast day is coming up at the beginning of August - we'll observe and celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration on Sunday, August 6.

I've long been convinced that no parish name is an accident. This parish's name is not as mysterious as some of the other churches of a similar age. At the century-plus mark many congregations don't have the institutional memory to recall the reasons for the saint or holy day for which they are named. In our case, we know the story of how the Sisters of the Transfiguration laid the literal groundwork for the first worshipping Episcopal community in Bat Cave. This parish is linked to the Order in some ground-level ways.

I'm also convinced that the name of a church can shape its life, and that the awareness of that process is important in parish life. The Transfiguration refers to the event near the end of Jesus' life when he took Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28-36). While he was praying his appearance changed before the eyes of the 3 disciples - he shone brilliantly, like the sun. And in an instant the 3 beheld two men with Jesus, engaged in conversation with him. Peter, James and John somehow knew that the men were Moses and Elijah (representing the Law and the Prophets of the Hebrew scriptures). A cloud suddenly surrounded them all, and a Voice said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Just as suddenly it was over, and they were alone with Jesus again.

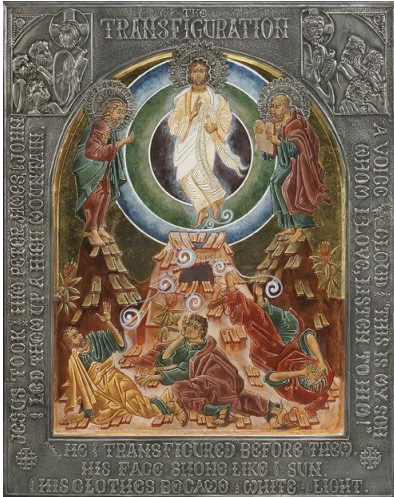
To my understanding the Transfiguration describes a moment in the thin space, which is what the Celts call a place where earth and heaven seem very close together. Perhaps you've had a mountaintop or born-again experience, when you entered such a thin space. In scripture what I see described is a moment when the veil between worlds was thin, if present at all. The 3 disciples saw Jesus through the eyes of heaven as well as with their own earthly sight. In the blink of an eye the ordinary became suffused with brilliant light, and indescribable beauty encompassed everything. The mundane glowed with celestial light, and the things they took for granted, and Jesus, were revealed in heavenly raiment. For an instant. From that moment on Peter, James and John were changed - their world had been overlaid with God's Presence, and for them nothing would ever be the same.

This story can and should have an impact on life in, around and through the Church of the Transfiguration. Ordinary things may be seen, for the fraction of a second, through the lens of heaven. People we've known for years or minutes might be revealed, for a moment, through the loving eyes of God. When a people *expect* transfiguration, it changes the world. Imagine a community that *strives* to see the Holy in each other, hoping to catch that instant when the space is thin. Such a community would live into the realization that *everything* and *everyone* is more Holy than we can ever imagine. And we begin to treat ourselves and each other as God's Beloved, almost able to perceive for a millisecond how deeply interconnected we are.

The other mark of such a Transfigured community is obedience to the Voice which gives the invitation to listen to Jesus, always. As we enter into the observance of our Feast Day, I invite you to hold close to your own sense or experience of a transfigured world, a world into which Jesus invites us in every moment.

Yours in Christ,

Rob+



The Icon of the Transfiguration

At the back of the Sanctuary you will find the Icon of the Transfiguration. This was written by Veryl Lynn Cox, to celebrate our centennial. The writing of this icon involved more than 80 individuals, some members of the Church, some of the Sisters of the Transfiguration, Bishop Porter Taylor and former Rectors the Rev. Mickey Mugan and the Rev. Jim Hindle. In this icon you see the story of the Transfiguration. For the complete story of the icon and a short history of our Church, visit our website at <https://www.ectransfiguration.org/about-us>



Feast of the Transfiguration August 6th One Service Only

Our church is on a majestic mountain in Bat Cave and the beautiful Hickory Nut Gorge area. As the Church of the Transfiguration, we as the Body of Christ, are destined to reveal the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. St. Irenaeus of Lyons most famous quote is "The Glory of God is a human being fully alive; and being alive consists of beholding God."

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

We are a Transformational church, which is defined as where people are becoming more like Christ, The church acts more like the Body of Christ and the community becomes more of a reflection of the Kingdom of God. We as a church, as the Body of Christ, exhibit the following attributes: A Missionary mentality; Vibrant leadership; Prayerful interdependence; Relational intentionality; worship; Community and Mission. In our journey our beautiful little church is in a good place, even though our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has so much more for us to learn, grow and do to continue to reveal His Glory amongst ourselves, the greater Hickory Nut Gorge area and to the ends of the Earth.

So let us come together on August 6th for one service (10:00 am Eucharist) to celebrate The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone please bring your family favorite dish to share with one another and be sure to invite family, friends and neighbors to our glorious celebration.

Tom

Contacting Rob

Rob, our Interim Priest-in-Charge, will generally keep Office Hours in the Saylor House every Tuesday, and will be available either Sunday afternoons or Thursdays as well. In case of emergency, you may call him on his cell at 970-372-7515. You can reach him via email at rob@ectransfiguration.org. He requests that you schedule meetings or appointments with him rather than dropping by, but he does his best to meet your needs.

Discernment Committee Update

The Discernment Committee is happy to report that 1st interviews were conducted with two candidates on July 11th and July 12th. The committee members were able to engage with both candidates to understand their background, passions, and vision (in a preliminary sense) for the call to Transfiguration. We have two candidates who each provide a unique background with specific strengths that can serve Transfiguration in the areas we have identified as most important - a shepherding guide who is committed to building relationships and community both within the congregation and community through sharing the love of God.

In committee discussion and voting we are moving forward with second interviews with both candidates. Second interviews were scheduled for 7/29 and 8/2. Please continue to pray for our committee as well as both candidates to hear and follow the Spirit's lead. The committee is very grateful for the support of the entire congregation throughout this journey. We know that the Holy Spirit is leading us and preparing the candidate that will be our next Rector.

On behalf of the DC: Dawn Milachouski

Bare Necessities Update

On Sunday July 9th, Lynn Morehead's great-grandson Zeus (pictured here with Dad Cameron, Mom Gina, and Sister Ember) was gifted a fleece blanket crafted by the Bare Necessities Team. The blanket carries a sewn on patch with the church's name. We hope that this will be a reminder of God's encompassing love.



Throughout the year a gracious crew of ladies (Pictured L to R below: Ann, Pamela, Sara, Marily, Dixie, Elizabeth, and Dawn in front) have worked to create our diaper and feminine hygiene components and kits. This July we completed an additional 30 diaper kits and 24 feminine hygiene kits which were blessed on Sunday and will be shipped off in the coming week. We also completed the diaper covers and shields for another 12 diaper kits and 56 feminine kits - we are now focusing on flannel wipes/inserts!!

We are so grateful for all the support, prayers, and encouragement for this ministry and we pray that these kits will bless the lives of the women and children who receive them.

Dawn Milachouski



Bare Necessities Team meets at 2 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. They welcome anyone who would like to participate in cutting, sewing, packing, and helping organize. All skill levels are invited! For more information [contact Dawn.](#)

Cemetery Committee Update

The Cemetery Committee met on July 27. Committee members Nancy McNary, Ann Robinson, David Efird, Carlann Scherping met to review the recent updates including the recent remapping of the cemetery and the digital records of plots. The committee is responsible for keeping the policies, maps and records updated and are available to answer questions about the cemetery or memorial garden. Contact [Nancy McNary](#), chair, for more information.

Carlann Scherping



Invitation to Serve: Lay Ministries

What is the Lay Ministry? It is an integral part of being the Body of Christ. It is part of the work all Christians are compelled to do in service of Christ's ministry. What roles in our church are part of the Lay Ministry? Chalice Bearer, Acolytes, Sunday School Teachers, Child Care Givers (Nursery), Pastoral Care, Weekly Cleaning Teams, Coffee Hour Hosts, Ushers, Altar Guild, Greeters, and Lectors, or any other specific areas to serve our parish.

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Join in on the Blessing of having it given to you, by the giving of yourself, talents and time to God and one another. It is an easy step on a path to a life fully lived. If you are interested please let Carlann, Marily, Alice, Tom or Fr. Rob know.

Blessings, Tom

Tools For Schools

Use The Ingles Advantage™ Card and help your local school. When you make purchases using The Ingles Advantage™ Card, Ingles will give back to the school a portion of those sales. The portion can be used by the school to purchase computers and school supplies. You might consider Lake Lure Classical School and Sunny View Elementary in Mill Spring. Over the past 20 years, Ingles Markets has contributed over 17 million dollars to schools in towns where Ingles stores are located. These dollars have been used for valuable learning tools and equipment. [Learn More](#)



Communication Newsletters and Social Media

Hey, do you love your social media time? Transfiguration has a ministry opportunity for you, complete with training through our Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina! Carlann (cscherping@gmail.com) can tell you more, or you can register (at no charge) for the next class, taking place online on August 10 at 7 pm. There are an increasing number of ways for us to share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ - please consider sharing your time and talent with your church community! Thanks!

Rob+

The next workshop is For more information and to register (it's free): [Newsletters and Social Media](#).



Caring Friends Ministry

We have a wonderful ministry at the Church called Caring Friends. Pastoral Care is a ministry in which all God's people are called to practice. All baptized Christians are responsible for the caring of others. This is what Caring Friends is all about.

This team of church members is on call to help out when someone in the church is in need of a meal, transportation to doctors, a visit, respite, or just a card or a phone call to let you know we care. We are divided into teams to bring meals, make phone calls or send cards and to visit or help with transportation. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, please contact Sandra and we will get you on our list to call when need arises.

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." 1 Peter 5:2-4

Tom

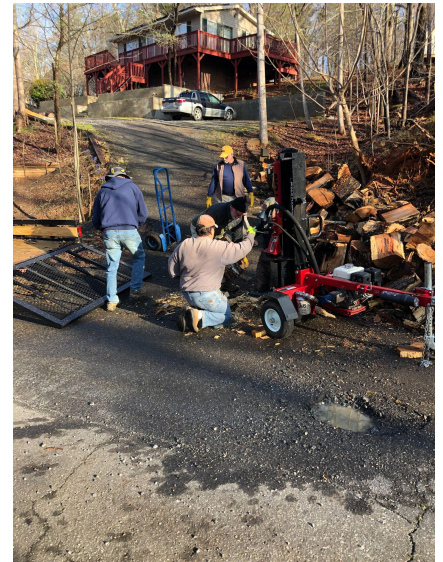
Firewood Ministry

Firewood Ministry continues with their year-round service to the community by cutting, splitting, storing wood and making deliveries to people in need during the fall and winter seasons. The community's needs continue to grow and in response so does our firewood ministry. This past year our firewood ministry received a \$10,000 dollar grant from The Alliance for Green Heat who is partnering with the USDA Forest Service. This grant enabled the ministry to purchase new chain saws, extra chains, safety equipment, first aid kit, chain sharpeners, moisture meters, chain oil, 2 cycle engine oil and more as well as a wood storage shed that will enable us to better cure the firewood by reducing moisture content.

We continue to partner with the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach who will provide information concerning families that need firewood for home heating purposes as well as in some cases to enable their cooking needs. We currently have our best inventory on hand as we continue to prepare for the season.

We have a list of approximately 12 volunteers who participate when their time aligns with our work opportunities. We generally get together on Wednesdays. I will send out an email each week to see who is available to help this week and then we evaluate our job opportunities given the number of volunteers. We can always use more volunteers, especially with the community's needs continually increasing. We can use experienced chainsaw operators, wood splitter operators, as well as those to load the trucks or trailers with split wood. There is nothing better than working alongside a group of volunteers doing God's good works for those in our community that are in need. If you would like to participate on Wednesdays when you might be available in this much needed ministry please feel free contact Patrick at 828-772-9258 and discuss the opportunities.

Tom



M & M & M & M **(Mature, Motivated, Mischievous, Magical, etc.)**

Last week, two carloads of ladies made a road trip to Strawberry Hill in search of peaches, produce and a good lunch. The road trip was fabulous... you could hear the chatter and laughter for miles... We did find some peaches, but had to weigh the price with our original plans for the peaches and adjust accordingly.... 90% of the peach crop was lost due to a late frost... thus the very high prices for peaches. There was still a variety of produce, FABULOUS TOMATOES, blackberries, squash and watermelon.



Lunch specials included an offering of beef or chicken fajitas with rice and beans which most of us tried and enjoyed. The meal provided many of us with leftovers for at least another meal. Although we couldn't possibly finish our meal, we made room for a "kiddie" serving of ice cream..... You just have to love these

Mature, Motivated, Mischievous and Magical adventurers....

They ALWAYS have a good time.

Marily

Upcoming M&M Adventures

M & M is planning a Magical early evening adventure to the NC Arboretum for an ARBOR EVENING - Stroll through the gardens in the glow of the golden hour while listening to live artists from a variety of local and regional artists. Bring a picnic dinner or something from their bistro and a chair or blanket to enjoy a totally relaxing evening with friends. We are looking at Thursday, Sept. 7th or 14th. A sign-up sheet with more details will go up shortly. The fee is only \$20 per CAR. The more, the merrier!



Other events in the planning stage for the fall:

- Trip to Waynesville

- Boat cruise and tie-up (need boat owners to volunteer)

- Tour of St. John's of the Wilderness Episcopal Church and famous graveyard

- Bullington Gardens - tour of gardens and dahlias

- Carolina Avian Research and Education (CARE) tour: The Great Bird Adventure; A sanctuary for rare and endangered birds from around the world

Please let me know of other adventures you would like to enjoy... Whatever it is, we'll have a great time!!

[Marily Floyd](#)

Backyard Sports - Fall 2023

Your Invitation to Volunteer

Although it is only the end of July, we are in serious planning stages for 2023-2024 Backyard Sports, celebrating our **Fifth Year!**



Kindergarten Sign-Up : August 4th and is just a week from Friday!
Open House for 1st Grade through 6th grade is August 10th!

Please be in prayer as to how you can participate in this amazing ministry for elementary school kids in our community that really need us. We may not have young children in the church on Sunday mornings, but we have a chance to share our love and concern for these kids that can make a real difference in their lives.

Backyard Sports begins the end of September and meets every Monday afternoon after school from 3- 5pm. We need volunteers to do a variety of things:

- supervise kids - check them in/out
- help with basic skills (no experience necessary)
- be a snack warrior - provide snacks 2-3 times during the year
- help prep/serve snacks and water
- ride the school bus with the kids from the school to the field/church
- administer first aid
- supervise bathrooms
- provide security



There is an opportunity here with your name on it. More details will follow. Please see [Marilyn](#) for details or if you have questions.

Nature and Forest Therapy at Transfiguration Preserve in August

188 Mt. Tabor Way, off Hwy 9 Bat Cave

Forest Bathing Saturday, August 12th 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Mattie Decker, ANFT Certified guide: Experience the forest and walks along the Rocky Broad River and waterfalls, ending with a tea ceremony.

Sacred Saunter, Sunday August 13th 1:00-3:00 pm. Gather at Transfiguration Preserve for an experience of Nature as Spiritual Practice. Participants experience a slow, silent saunter in nature; each may bring a poem or song or simply come to spend time quietly in nature and gather to share at the close in a sharing circle.

YOGA in Nature Tuesday, August 15th 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. with Kiersten Angelos, Certified Yoga instructor and Ayurvedic medicine practitioner Participants will enjoy gentle yoga along the Rocky Broad River; Bring your own yoga mat and props, and a water bottle.

Note: 'The Way of Water' Fly fishing as Contemplative Practice with Tanner Pickett will be offered in September and October when it cools down.

For more information contact [Mattie Decker](#)



Empowering Our Communities Youth Back to School Supply Drive

Thanks to everyone for supporting our backpack drive in partnership with the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach! Twenty backpacks, plus an abundance of extra school supplies, were blessed on Sunday, July 23rd before delivering to HNGO for distribution to area children for whom these supplies will help empower a positive back to school experience!

Tom

Book Study: Epic of Eden

Over the past 2 months a group of parishioners has been meeting on Wednesdays to read and discuss *The Epic of Eden* by Sandra Richter. We completed the Book study on July 26. Written with the purpose of giving an overview of the significance of the Old Testament in the overall story of redemption. We were made for Eden and we are going back there. What our group loved most about this book was the historical context of the people, place, and time of the Ancient Middle East. Understanding the significance of the Father's household (Bet'ab), and covenant relationship (Ber'it) and the geography of where the actions and stories within the Bible are actually taking place made a big impact on our understanding of the nature of God and his relationship with us. Several of our group went from having a low comfort level or not wanting/needing to know about the Old Testament to seeing within it the story of God's consistent keeping of the covenant (promises) he made way back in the Garden of Eden. As with any study there were sections that the group felt were tedious or didn't agree with, and the wonderful thing about this was that this often led to some of the most productive discussion!! We all listened openly to the struggles or disagreements and offered our perspectives or conclusions from our own experiences. It was really a joy!!

Some of us fondly called ourselves "reverent agnostics" or "persistent strugglers" and sharing a journey of seeking to know God and ourselves better was both affirming and challenging. We were all called to common belief that there is something bigger than us, that something is compelling, loving, and good who is redeeming all creation, if we pursue the commands and examples of Jesus we will be part of bringing the kingdom of God to the here and now and we will be part of God's redemption story, and finally that this earthly realm is not the end, there is something more (and better)! If you are interested in learning more about the book or the impact of the study, talk to Dawn. One of the group could probably loan you the book and give you our insight.

[Dawn Milachouski](#)

P.S. Fun fact: Rev. Joan Grant who did supply work for us lives in the same community as the author's sister! The interconnectedness of the world is truly remarkable!



Happy August Birthdays!

Sharon Ryan 7, Jeff Neal 13, Peter Reichert 13,
JoAnne Ellingson 16, Tom Scott 22, Mattie Decker 29

Happy August Anniversaries!

Anne and Dixon Bridgers 8, Marily and Jerry Floyd 17,
Lisa and Rob Fye 29



Praying for those who have asked for our prayers and whom we know to be in need



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, Cathie Dabrowski, Junior Lawter, Lew Thatcher, Tony Maulden, Michael
Okpych, Sheila Bradner, Pamela Mumby, Malee Keller, Holly Williams,

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

*If you or someone you know would like prayers,
contact Kathy so we can include them on our list.*

Please pray for our Vestry and Church Leadership

Tom Scott Sr. Warden 813-477-5430
Patti Glassen Jr. Warden
Dawn Milachouski
Buddy Morrison
Mattie Decker
Mike Maziarka
Charlene Cassidy
JoAnne Ellingson Church Finance 625-9637
Carlann Scherping Clerk of Vestry

Please pray for our New Rector Search Committee

Nancy Scott, Chair
Dawn Milachouski, Vestry Liaison
Julie Maziarka

Carl Nelson
Crystal Morrison
Marilyn Floyd