

The Messenger

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

Connecting The Dots

As we move toward Holy Week and Easter, I pray you are able to find a deeper sense of meaning and connection. I have continued to feel so blessed in the connections being made in our beautiful church community. One of those connections I am particularly thankful for is the continued support and relationship we have had with Fr. Mickey Mugan who served as Transfiguration's Rector in the early 2000s. He has been a frequent supply priest over the years since his retirement and has continued to be an occasional presence in our church community. The vestry and I are excited to announce that Fr. Mickey has graciously accepted being named as an Honorary Priest Associate in our parish. This is such a blessing to us! This means Fr. Mickey officially (even though he and his family have always been welcome) has a standing invitation to participate in our worship and a place to officially call his church home. Personally, I am so thankful for this extra level of support and connection. During his time as rector he was a gift to this church, and now in retirement, he continues to bring stability and connection with our parish. When you see him, please thank him and Maggie for their continued presence at Transfiguration!



Along with this announcement of Fr. Mickey as our Honorary Priest Associate, you might have noticed the "wall of rectors" has been updated and moved from the hallway to the Parish Hall. This is a way to celebrate the history of our parish and the work of those who have come before us. Now Fr. Mickey and Fr. Wes are "on the wall" as part of our living history at Transfiguration! Thank you to those who helped make this happen.

I am so thankful to be "Together in Lent" with all of you. I hope you can find ways to join into the life of our community as we journey through this season of Lent. Please mark your calendars for our Holy Week Services.

Fr. John

Exciting Grant News

The Church of the Transfiguration Partners with The Episcopal Foundation of WNC and the Episcopal Diocese of WNC

These past few months your Rector and Vestry has been working closely with the Diocese of WNC and with Carol Tannenbaum, Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese. Your leadership team has completed a Foundation grant application for \$20,000 to help cover the costs of our new parking lot project. We have also applied for a \$25,000 five year interest free loan from the Diocese in an attempt to minimize the use of investment funds to be able to complete this much needed parking lot project.

The vestry also worked with Carol and the diocese to secure a \$10,000 congressional vitality grant which will be used to connect to the recently laid cable line by Spectrum and to purchase technology as well as install live stream capability both in our church and parish hall.

We are pleased to announce that these grants and the loan have been approved by CFO Carol Tannenbaum and the Fiscal Ministries Committee of the Diocese of Western North Carolina as well as The Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina.

Both the \$25,000 loan and the \$20,000 grant will be used to have Tar-heel Paving completely redo our parking lot this April. We are also excited about the opportunities the \$10,000 vitality grant offers us in sharing the Church of the Transfiguration's hospitality and vitality. This will be another tool to help our new shepherd, Fr. John Roberts, to reach beyond the walls of our beautiful church to minister and spread God's word to those in need of Love and Hope.

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." Psalm 95:1-3

Praise be to God and to those who seek to do his will in supporting one another!!! Amen.

Senior Warden, Tom Scott

Honor/Remember a Loved One with Easter Lilies

We have begun our Lenten journey, a time of self examination, humility, and simplicity as reflected in the unadorned greenery at the altar this season. We do look forward with the hope of the risen Christ on Easter when we find the church filled with the beauty and heavenly scent of Easter Lilies, honoring and remembering loved ones of our church family.



There will be forms in the bulletin on Sunday to order Easter Lilies. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of the Easter Lilies, please put the completed form and check in the offering plate. Be sure to note on the bottom of the check that the donation is for Easter Lilies. Donations are appreciated but not required. If you are not able to come to church, but you would still like to remember someone with an Easter Lily, email Maily (mountain.floyd@gmail.com) the name of the person(s) you wish to honor. You can send your check to PO Box 130, Bat Cave 28710. Please return the form by March 24th.

Altar Guild, Marily Floyd



Firewood Ministry Fun and Fellowship Next Workday March 26

Members of the firewood ministry will be meeting on Tuesday March 26th from 9:00 am until noon to work on cutting the logs at our church, splitting rounds, loading on pallets and storing in our new firewood storage shed at the church.



If you have any interest in being outdoors in the fresh air while being in fellowship with each other and fulfilling God's call to be in service to others, then you will surely want to participate in this important ministry of supplying firewood for those in our community that rely on firewood as the only source to provide heat to their homes. If you can make it, send an email to Mike Boff at michaelboff@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there.



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord" 1 Peter 4:10-11

Tom, Sr. Warden

Souper Sunday and Hospice Pantry Collections

Our generous Church Family donated 115 cans of soup to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach on Souper Sunday and we collected 56 items for the Hospice Pantry. Hospice Pantry items are collected on the fourth Sunday.

Important: Please remember that Hospice items must be single servings that can be eaten right out of the container without any preparation. These patients are not able to prepare foods other than placing a container in the microwave. Suggested items are ready to eat mac and cheese or pasta in single serving microwavable containers, and fruit or pudding cups. Most needed are nutritious drinks like Ensure and Boost.

For more information [contact Carlann](#)



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Coffee Hours Hosts are needed. We are keeping the coffee hours simple and easy to host. Stop by the grocery and pick up some fruit, cookies, and chips. Add a dip for the chips and maybe some nuts. It isn't supposed to be a meal! Just enough to give us something to snack on while we visit with each other after the service. Keeping it simple makes it easy for our little ones to self-serve.

For more information, you can contact [Alice](#) or visit the [online signup](#).



Workday Saturday March 23 - 9:00 am till 12 noon.



We will be working inside and outside to prepare for Easter. We will be spreading mulch and sprucing up the grounds. Inside, we'll be freshening up and getting our beautiful church building ready to celebrate Easter! Coffee, juice and muffins will be available. Come out and enjoy a lot of fellowship and a little work! Patrick has already gotten the mulch in place for spreading. For more information contact [Dixie](#), Jr Warden

Transfiguration Thursdays

If you haven't been able to join us for Transfiguration Thursday's Noonday Prayer and Healing Service you are missing a wonderful service that you may not have experienced before. Noonday prayer is in your Book of Common Prayer and is one service that we don't often get to enjoy. We have been hearing stories of different Saints, some ancient and some fairly recent. Consider joining us in the Church for this service. Afterwards there is a soup lunch in the Saylor House. The soups are homemade and delicious!



Sunday Formation Time

9:10 am Sundays

The Sunday Formation time is an opportunity for Bible study and mindfulness. It happens on Sundays between services in the Saylor House. We will begin around 9:10 am and end in time for the 10:00 am service. Mattie Decker and Fr. John are leading this together.



Bare Necessities

The Bare Necessities team was excited to gift 2 baby blessing blankets over the past month. Sandra Nelson and Debbie Dee presented our blankets to their "grands". Just look at these adorable faces!

Baby Isaiah loves his new blanket, a gift from our Bare Necessities Ministry. Big Brother Abraham is wearing the cap since it's a little big for Isaiah. Thank you ETC!



We received a lovely message from Debbie: My dear church friends, Dawson loved his ETC Baby Blessing Blanket!! My daughter and son-in-law were so appreciative of your thoughtfulness and talent! It is going to be very loved. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Peace & Love, Debbie Dee

To learn more about Bare Necessities, [Contact Dawn.](#)



Pre-Eulogy Dinner

Our guest speaker in February was Fr. John Roberts. It was a great opportunity to learn a little more about our Rector. Please join us on Thursday March 21 at La Strada at 6 pm. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Boff.



Celebrating Our Children



Martha Jane and Gaia celebrated birthdays in February. Happy Birthday!!

We now have a Children's Program during the 10 o'clock service. Dawn and other volunteers meet with the children during the first part of the service. They are having fun learning stories from the Bible. They return at the Peace excited to share the craft item they made. Thanks Dawn for heading up this important ministry!



Ladies Night at the Movies

A fabulous group of ECT women & some of their friends experienced an incredible and amazing M&M movie (Mature and Motivational; not to mention Magically Musical): The Color Purple at the Tryon Theater. This movie was a beautiful picture of the power of love, grace, and forgiveness. Highly recommend seeing this for yourself. I will always be grateful for these wonderful ladies who continue to share their time and lives together. It was like a wonderful church service in the middle of a movie theater.



Backyard Sports

Backyard Sports is meeting at the Church for the rest of the school year. The children are learning basketball techniques and having a lot of fun shooting baskets and having delicious snacks sent by our Snack Warriors each week. The only thing missing is our wonderful leader Marily who is having to take a break while she recovers from knee surgery. The children spent some time making cards for Marily to wish her a speedy recovery and a quick return to BYS! Thank you Julie for providing the materials and cards for that project!



Hurry Back, Marily!



Shrove Tuesday Celebration

The pancake dinner was well attended and everyone enjoyed the pancakes, bacon and sausage. Many thanks to head chefs Dixie and Buddy! Who are those masked people?



Saylor House Gardens Project

Calling All Gardeners or Anyone Who Loves Flowers!

If you or anyone you know would like to help transform the area behind the Saylor House into gardens for people and pollinators, please contact Alice Garrard and let her know in which area(s) you can help:

1. Prep work: Removing old garden fabric and netting laid down to prevent weeds; turning the soil but leaving existing flowers and paths.
2. Wildflower Garden to attract pollinators, to be created soon by sowing seeds over much of the prepared area.
3. Cutting Garden, which will primarily support the Altar Guild.
4. Children's Garden for flowers and vegetables.
5. Container Garden for herbs such as mint for iced tea and basil for cookouts.
6. Donor. Support us with plants from your garden, bulbs, seeds, or the funds to buy them. We can also use a couple of pretty containers for herbs.

Contact Alice at alicegrrrd@gmail.com and specify Saylor House Gardens in the subject line.



Imagine this area filled with flowers for cutting and attracting butterflies!

Set your clocks back Saturday Night, March 9 so you make it to church at the right time.

Wild Church is now at 5 pm.





Happy March Birthdays!

Saundra Nelson 2, Alice Garrard 8, Rick Glassen 11, Hannah Marie Roberts 16,
Carol Michaels 18, Gabriel Roberts 19

Happy February Anniversaries!

Mike and Kathy Boff 3/12



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, Heyward & Nancy Nettles,
Bernice Liverett, Scott and Karen Meyers, Gracie Johnson Hutchinson,
Pam Keith, Cathie Dabrowski Lew Thatcher, Tony Maulden, Michael
Okpych, Emily Wright, Toby Van Eyll, Annica Rogers, Joan Meade, Skip Smoak, Bobby Lang, Eva
Heatherly, Amanda Cook, Tom Graham, Michele Yackel, Kristi Alipiak, Elsie Luciano, Steve Huntley
Raymond DeAntonio, Marily Floyd, Gertie Merrill, Julie and Chuck Buttle, Mary Karr, MaLee Keller,
Steve Holloway, Greg Lemke



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

Rev. John Roberts john@ectransfiguration.org
Tom Scott Sr. Warden 813-477-5430
Dixie Robinson Jr Warden
Buddy Morrison
Mike Maziarka
Charlene Cassidy
Kathy Boff
Debbie Wright
JoAnne Ellingson Church Finance 625-9637
Carlann Scherping Clerk of Vestry

Have some news for the newsletter? Please get that to Carlann by the 25th of each month.

Church Office open Thursdays and Fridays and by Appointment

828-625-9244 or john@ectransfiguration.org

[Link to Sign up for Coffee Hour](#)

Visit our website at <https://www.ectransfiguration.org/>

[Link to Lay Ministries](#)