

HILLTOP HIGHLIGHTS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

*“THE SHINING LITTLE CHURCH
ON THE HILL”*



**JULY / AUGUST
2019**

ADDRESS

PO Box 132
1634 Hilltown Pike
Hilltown, PA, 18927
Office: (215) 822-3930

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:00 am—Noon

Thursdays
By Appointment

SUNDAY SUPPLY PRIEST

The Rev. Dr. Richard C.
Ditterline

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Bobbie Livesey

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II

MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesdays at 9:30 am
*Holy Eucharist &
Healing Prayer*

SENIOR WARDEN'S REFLECTIONS

Dear friends,

The months of July and August allow us to be outside and enjoy the beauty of nature. I consider myself to be extremely blessed by living on a farm in beautiful Bucks county. Early in the morning I sit on the patio with my cup of coffee, eyes closed, listening to the birds singing, the farm animals talking to one another while eating their breakfast, and feeling the sun warming my face. In the late evening I walk my fields looking to see how the corn, soybeans, and alfalfa are growing. Hopefully the weather will be kind to the farmers and allow them a large yield for their efforts. What a peaceful way to begin and end the day seeing the wonders of God.

We welcome the month of July with a “bang”. The Fourth of July celebration began on July 4, 1776 when the thirteen colonies claimed independence from England and formed the United States, signing the Declaration of Independence. It is a holiday to celebrate with fireworks, parades, and picnics. Let us not forget the real reason to celebrate. The 242-year-old document, the Declaration of Independence, continues to represent who America is – a country believing in equal rights for all of its people and where there is equal opportunity for all to reach their dreams. It is our duty as American citizens to support and defend this document.

We continue to be in the longest liturgical season, that of “Quiet Time”. It is a time to explore and interact in the lives of everyone and Good Shepherd with its big heart does just that. Our annual book sale was once again a huge success but this year Jim, Karen, and all the volunteers faced a huge boulder in the road – water damage. Due to a truck accident in front of the church that damaged an underground drainage pipe and caused water to back up into the basement, many of the books that were stored there were lost. The damage was extensive. Our congregants are strong and rose to the challenge. As a result, all went well and we continued to interact with the lives of so many by providing them with a multitude of affordable books to enlighten them in so many ways. Bless all who went the extra mile to accomplish our number one fundraiser.

Even though some of our members have been confronted with major surgeries and other serious illnesses in the past two months, they continue to support others in need. Many participate in our prayer chain, some knit prayer shawls, we collect food for the local pantries, cards are sent, phone calls are made, and visits with communion are provided to our shut-ins. We are blessed by being members of the Good Shepherd family.

(Continued on page 2)

VESTRY MEMBERS

Peggy Lewis
Senior Warden

Stephen Bowers
Accounting Warden

BJ Girard
Vestry Clerk

Sara Campbell
Barbara Gregory
Jim McGuire
Dan Pillie

WORSHIP

ALTAR GUILD

Wendy Gogol, Chair

MUSIC

Cindy Schwebel, Director
Vaughn Rennie, Organist
The Shepherd Singers
The Shepherd Ringers

COMMUNICATIONS

Sara Campbell
*Newsletter Editor &
Website Manager*

HILLTOP HIGHLIGHTS is a bimonthly publication of Good Shepherd Church. **All submissions are due** to the Editor by the **15th of February, April, June, August, October and December**. Newsletter artwork and design: © **Shirley Springsteen**. Art is to be used **ONLY** with artist's permission.

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We continue to be in transition. The search committee did interview a third candidate in May but unfortunately that was not successful. Continued prayers and patience are needed and faith that God will guide us to a new rector. Father Dick Ditterline is guiding us through this period of time and for that we are thankful.

In these troubled times of hate and violence throughout the world, it is reassuring to know that here at Good Shepherd, with its simplicity and strength, rests tranquility and peace, and with peace anything is possible. God Bless America!

These past few months have been hectic. During this transition period many people have added duties to help run the church on a daily basis and I am thankful for all their help. We have had some parishioners with major illnesses and sadly lost our beloved Dolores Henry.

Good Shepherd is strong and we will move forward. Please remember: **"the will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you."** God Bless Everyone!

Faithfully yours,
Peggy Lewis, *Senior Warden*

MEMORIAL



In memory of his life and service, we remember with love and thanksgiving our friend, Rev. Frank Toia who went into eternal life on June 24, 2019.

The Rev. Frank Toia was Rector of Good Shepherd Church from June 1979 until his retirement in May 1999. He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; his children Catherine, Meg (Tom) and Dave (Justina) and his grandchild Greyson; his sister Barb and brother Tim; and his many cherished nieces and nephews.

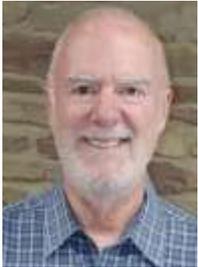
His memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 11:00 am at **St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 654 N Easton Rd, Glenside, PA 19038**. A coffee reception at 9:30 am precedes the service and a luncheon will follow, both at **St. Peter's**.

MESSAGE BOARD

✝ **VESTRY** No meetings July and August

WELCOME TO VESTRY!

On May 19th at the annual meeting, Stephen Bowers and Jim McGuire were elected to the Vestry. Thank you to Karen Bossert, Cindy Schwebel, and Scott Strong for their many years of service!



Stephen Bowers
Accounting Warden

Fran and I are very happy to be part of the Good Shepherd community. We moved to Pennsylvania to be closer to our two daughters and three grandchildren. We chose Good Shepherd as our church because of the friendly people and thoughtful sermons. I have served on vestries in parishes in Las Vegas and North Carolina and was Senior Warden in both churches. I also served as the Head of two Episcopal parish day schools in Augusta, Georgia, and Los Angeles. I look forward to helping Good Shepherd confront the issues that challenge us and to planning for a bright future. I am also very interested in helping us expand our mission of making the world more peaceful and loving.



Jim McGuire
Buildings and Grounds

I was born and raised in the Lansdale area. My wife, Patti, and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary Oct. 6th. We have five children and five grandchildren.

My father was a WWII vet and a hard worker all his life. My mother was the best home maker ever and the glue to our family. My parents taught myself and siblings the importance of remembering where we came from and to do the best of our ability in all things. They raised 11 children and did an amazing job! Growing up with seven brothers we played a lot of sports. My favorites were baseball and basketball. Still to this day I enjoy sports.

My career started at Clemens Family Super Market and then moved on to Giant. I have recently retired and enjoy retirement more than I ever **could have imagined. I'm enjoying playing golf,** relaxing and listening to music, going to the gym, and spending time with our family and grandchildren.

FOOD PANTRY

We delivered 157 pounds of food to the three food pantries in the our area during May and June 2019. Thank you to all those who donated food and to those who delivered it! *Dan Pillie*

OUTREACH

Thank you to all the parishioners who always open their hearts and pocketbooks to help provide for the needs of others. In May we collected \$575.00 to send to St. James school in Philadelphia. This will help under-privileged children enjoy the outdoors and participate in academic classes during summer camp. In June, we collected baby diapers, a much needed commodity, that were donated to Fish in Perkasio.

In July and August we will help local children be prepared to start their new school year with much-needed school supplies. If you have any other suggestions for outreach projects please let me know. God Bless all for your support! *Peggy Lewis*

HOSPITALITY

Real cups versus paper cups. We have a large collection of cups and mugs. Many of us have a favorite one hanging on the wall racks. These, of course, can be washed by hand or rinsed and put in the dishwasher. Our SUPER HOT water will have them cleaned and sanitized for the following Sunday. Paper cups are always available.

We are also well supplied with plastic single-use utensils. As these are used, they will be replaced with biodegradable bamboo utensils. Our plastic stirrers will also be replaced. We will be loving our Earth and taking care of her.

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The last part of our eco-friendly lifestyle is the clear plastic cups. They have that cute little triangle on the bottom. Please recycle them!

Purge the refrigerator. June 9th was Stage 1 of Purge the refrigerator. Many items on the door had celebrated anniversaries with us! They have gone the way of all aged food.

Coffee Hour. Thinking about hosting a coffee hour? Please check the cabinets. Many times there are crackers or chips that can be added to your spread. We are also well stocked with flavored creamers, juices, soft drinks, and bottled water. Come on in! Open doors! Check out our well supplied kitchen!

If you have any suggestions for Coffee Hour, please let me know. Change is good!

Thank you to those who have hosted Coffee Hour!

Jane Ryan

BOOK SALE RESULTS

In spite of the basement flood in mid-May, once again this year our Book Sale was a great success! We had many visitors to our little church over the course of two weekends. Comments from shoppers help reinforce the value and importance of the Book Sale to our local community. We see repeat customers, especially those on fixed incomes or with growing families, who are able to purchase a nice pile of books for not much money. There is a loyal following in the community; our sale is well-known and well-attended.

How did we do? A five-year comparison

Despite the challenges faced this year, we still generated the largest sales year in the past 5 years.

Year	Sales	Total Books (est)
2015	\$ 4685	20,800
2016	\$ 5810	24,800
2017	\$ 7705	30,060
2018	\$10038	40,000
2019	\$10830	45,000*

* Includes audio items (CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks); priced in 2019 as 2/\$1.00.

Book Donations

Every year donations come from the public and start pouring in as soon as the sign goes up outside

the church in March. Many folks who purchase from the sale have expressed a desire to donate books year-round, and tell us they “recycle” their purchases by donating to the next year’s sale. We also continue to receive one-time large donations from individuals who are down-sizing or settling family estates.

As in prior years, groups in the area donated their leftover books, which would have otherwise been sent to a recycler or discarded. The groups included: Church of the Redeemer (Bryn Mawr, PA); Havertown Public Library; Helen Kate Furness Free Library (Wallingford, PA); St. David’s Episcopal Church (Wayne, PA); Swarthmore Public Library; and Wissahickon Valley Public Library.

What it takes for a successful sale

Besides the books, we rely on and are profoundly grateful for several other donations to run this sale each year.

- Local Giant Markets donate brown paper bags for the bag sale on the final day.
- **Rich Hinkle’s “Chicken Box Ministry”**, sourced in NJ, is truly our main supply of chicken boxes, providing literally hundreds of boxes, without which we would struggle to make the sale work.
- Bobbie Livesey provided white tags for labeling boxes as well as copying services for flyers, from her office.
- Shirley Springsteen made signs. Jim Koch provided marking pens and box cutters, as well configured and continually updated the roadside signage to guide community book donations and inspire public interest in the sale.

The most important donation, without which this sale would not be possible, are our dedicated Volunteers. There are few words to fully describe the value of the commitment of the volunteers, especially the core group of 6-7 people who worked regularly from March onwards. Also, 29 different members of Good Shepherd volunteered over the course of the sale, with another 5 people in the “Friends and Family” category who pitched in! This year, we received offers of help from 2 non-congregant folks from the community for future sales.

We do need to spend some money...

Though we rely heavily on the generous donations of books, supplies and human resources, we do

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have expenses in order to pull off a successful sale. For instance, this year 2 slim benches were purchased for display space in the main hallway; these benches are designed for use with the folding tables, so can be used in the future to provide picnic-style seating for other parish events.

As in 2018, this year advertising was a costly investment. While we continue to use many free and low-cost advertising options as possible (roadside signs, flyers, church website, press releases), we did purchase ads in the Penny Power, Intelligencer, and the Bucks County Herald for the short, two-week period just prior to the sales.

Our costliest expense in 2019 was for labor to move materials and books. We hired College Hunks for the planned move of 300 filled boxes from the base-

ment to the parish hall in March/April. We also hired high school students in the wake of the basement flood in mid-May to rescue books from the basement and to help move materials on Memorial Day weekend to set up for the sale.

A Final Note

Some of the book donations we receive are passed along to other community groups rather than offered for sale. This year large-print books were donated to Brittany Farms; some non-fiction books were donated to the Christian Community Development Network; two vouchers for teachers were provided; and donated Bibles were given away free to the general public. As in years past, all fiction and nonfiction books leftover were purchased after the sale by the wholesale dealer, Mike.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2019 sale a success!
Karen Bossert and Jim Koch

CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 07/03 Kevin Brown
- 07/03 Spencer Gogol
- 07/08 Nikki Corkum (Akamo)
- 07/09 Clara Bradbury
- 07/09 Bobbie Livesey
- 07/09 Jackie Redo
- 07/10 Becky Noll
- 07/21 Emma Gogol
- 07/23 Dick Dyer
- 07/26 Kenny McGinnis
- 07/26 Christopher Schwebel
- 07/26 Paula Ewaniuk

AUGUST

- 08/02 Kathy Goff
- 08/10 Bette McCandless
- 08/20 Joan Ferry
- 08/24 Jay Clipp
- 08/30 Cassidy Nagle



ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/09 Matt and Linda Lilly
- 07/21 Steve and Sandi Gratias
- 08/05 Jack and Becky Kiefer
- 08/14 Gerry and Bobbie Livesey

PHOTO ALBUM



**Annual Meeting
May 19th**



Photos: Kathy Goff

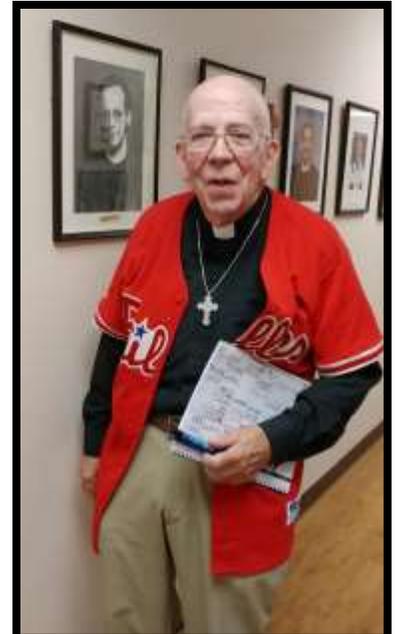
PHOTO ALBUM



Annual Book Sale
June 1st-2nd and June 7th-8th



Luncheon at
Plumsteadville Inn
June 26th



Photos: Kathy Goff

FATHER'S DAY, 2019

June 16, 2019

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Hilltown, PA

(The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Ditterline, Supply Priest)

Yes, today is TRINITY SUNDAY! I thought a lot about trying, in my sermon, to try to shed some light upon the mystery of The Holy Trinity. But last week, on Pentecost, we spent a lot of time talking about The Holy Spirit, so I thought that today we would concentrate on another holiday, "Father's Day!"

To all the fathers in our congregation this morning, I say: Happy Father's Day!"

A pastor asked the youngest member of the family to explain what Father's Day is...what it meant to him. He answered: "Well, it's just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much money for the present!"

And I suppose we could define a father by saying that he's a man who has replaced cash in his pocket with snapshots!!!

At any rate, if ever a person needed a press agent, it's the father of the family. Too often, dad becomes "the forgotten man." I suppose every day should be Father's Day, but one of our favorite human weaknesses is to take the important for granted - - and especially to take DAD for granted. So, it's only right that we stop at least once a year and say: "Happy Father's Day, Dad!" Perhaps our prayer today could be: "Our Father, who art on earth, and who gives us our daily bread, forgive us our trespass of taking you for granted!"

I'm sure many of us here today - - like me - - cannot say: "Happy Father's Day," because our fathers are deceased. And we'd give anything just to give him a hug or a gift - but we can't. Those of you whose dad is still living, did you ever think what it would be like if, for example, when you went home after church today, someone told you: "Your father isn't here; in fact, you'll never see him on earth again." So if your dad is still living, profit from our experience, and make this Sunday a special day for him!

A man named Clayton Barbeau, himself a father of six children, is the author of *The Head of the Family*. I'd like to use some of his chapter headings as points of reflection, as we pay tribute to dad today:

1) **Consider Father as Lover:** One liturgical book has this brief blessing for a husband and wife at the time of their wedding: "May you be blessed in your children, and may

the love you lavish upon them be returned a hundred-fold." Is that true in your family? Have you, as son or daughter, returned the love your father has lavished upon you? And to what extent? A hundred fold? Fifty fold? Remember, you didn't choose your dad; your dad chose to have you as his son or daughter. Consider Father as Lover.

2) **Then, we can think of Father as Creator:** The husband becomes a father. I'm convinced that even fathers go through labor pains; not only at the time of birth, but perhaps even more so during the years of trying hard to raise his son or daughter. Fathers can rightly claim the words of St. Paul as their own: "I am in labor with you until Christ be formed in you."

3) **We can easily think of Dad as Teacher:** Yes, teacher; not merely disciplinarian. After all, discipline is more than inflicting punishment. The word discipline comes from the Latin - *discere* - meaning to learn; to become a disciple. So, father teaches, and especially by example. We have heard it often, and perhaps because it's so true: children need models more than they need critics.

4) **Father as Breadwinner** is his most common role (no pun intended). I suppose in this capacity we see reasons why dad isn't appreciated enough: he's often up and out of the house before the children are up. The youngsters don't see his perspiration at work...worries pile up at his desk; personality clashes; the pressures of a deadline. Then we wonder why he's grouchy at times when he comes home. Like the little girl showing her playmate her new home: "This is daddy's den. Does your daddy have a den?" "No, he growls all over the house!"

5) **Did you ever think of your dad as Minister?** A minister brings God to the people; fathers bring the people (their family) to God. A priest is a giver of sacred things; is not also a father? And as far as effective ministry, that father is even more important than the minister; as the Spanish proverb says: "An ounce of parent is worth a pound of clergy!"

6) **And last, we can think of Father as a Saint.** Maybe we feel a bit uncomfortable with that expression; yet, it is no exaggeration. Every Father should be able to say to his children, as St. Paul told the Corinthians, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ!"

So, the "vocation" of a Christian father is a tremendous challenge! He must make his family the great success of his life; all else is of secondary importance. From my experience as a minister, a pastor, I would say that the success of a Father depends on the quality of his presence in the home. Or, to make it a bit more concrete: the active

presence of the father is highly beneficial to the formation of his children. And I pick the adjective and the adverb deliberately: “**active**” presence — “**highly**” beneficial. If the youth of today do not mature properly, I believe it’s often because the father doesn’t assume and assure his rightful place in the home.

In our day and age, there’s the constant temptation that faces the successful working man and father: that he become the busy father who gives his children everything, except himself!

I’d like to share a few lines written by Eugene Kennedy on the importance and challenge of fatherhood. He writes: “A Greek philosopher once wrote that a man’s life is complete if he has accomplished three things: written a book, planted a tree, and sired a child.” Most men don’t get all three done in a lifetime. Siring a child is not a mammoth initial undertaking; any number of people, fit and unfit, willingly and unwillingly, manage to do that every year. The hardest part begins with the birth of a son or a daughter. The real test is sustained through the long, demanding years of the father’s presence to the growing child, as he or she moves toward a separate life. This is the most dedicated of responsibilities: seeing a child through until they can take care of themselves; and then, loving them in a new way, permitting them to do just that: take care of themselves! (It’s not surprising that the symbols and analogies that Christians use to describe God, depend on our understanding and appreciation of parenthood!

Speaking of God, here’s a “celestial” incident, depicting the creation of fathers, that someone came up with — it’s entitled: AN ANGEL WATCHES GOD CREATE A FATHER.

When the good Lord was creating fathers, he started with a tall frame. But a female angel nearby said, “What kind of father is that? If you’re going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put fathers up so high? He won’t be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping.”

And God smiled and said, “Yes, but if I make him child-size, who would children have to look up to?”

Then God made a father’s hands; they were large and strong. But the angel shook her head sadly and said, “Do you know what you’re doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can’t manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on pony tails, or even remove splinters.” God smiled and said, “I know, but they’re large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at

the end of a day...yet small enough to cup a child’s face in his hands.”

Then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders. The angel nearly had a heart attack. “Do you realize you just made a father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?”

God smiled and said, “A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a child on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus.”

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had ever seen, when the angel could contain herself no longer. “That’s not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats drag themselves out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without stepping on at least three of the little guests?”

And God smiled and said, “They’ll work; you’ll see. They’ll support a small child who wants to ride piggy-back, or be large enough to scare off mice at a summer cabin, or big enough to wear shoes that will be a challenge for a young boy to fill.”

God worked throughout the night, giving the “Father” few words, but a firm, authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant.

Finally, almost as an afterthought, God added...tears. Then God turned to the angel and said, “Now, are you satisfied that a father can love as much as a mother?” The angel nodded, and was silent.

Let us conclude today’s reflection on “the grandeur of fathers” with this little litany:

*Mender of toys, leader of boys;
Changer of fuses, kisser of bruises;
Bless him, dear Lord!*

*Mover of couches, soother of “ouches,”
Pounder of nails, teller of tales;
Reward him, O Lord!*

*Hanger of screens, counselor of teens;
Fixer of bikes, chastiser of tykes,
Help him, O Lord!*

*Raker of leaves, cleaner of eaves;
Dryer of tears, comforter of fears,
Bless him, O Lord!*

AMEN!

JULY 2019

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

CONTACT: 215-822-3930

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed	2 Office Hours 9am—Noon	3 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Al Anon	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	8 Church Office Closed	9 Office Hours 9am—Noon	10 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer 11:00 am Pine Run Service	11 Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Al Anon	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	15 Church Office Closed	16 Office Hours 9am—Noon	17 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	18 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	22 Church Office Closed	23 Office Hours 9am—Noon	24 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	25 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	29 Church Office Closed	30 Office Hours 9am—Noon	31 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer			

AUGUST 2019

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

CONTACT: 215-822-3930

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	5 Church Office Closed	6 Office Hours 9am-12pm	7 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	8 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon	9 Church Office Closed	10
11 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 1:35 pm First Pitch IronPigs Game	12 Church Office Closed	13 Office Hours 9am-12pm	14 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer 11 am Pine Run Service	15 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon <i>Deadline for September/October Newsletter articles</i>	16 Church Office Closed	17
18 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	19 Church Office Closed	20 Office Hours 9am-12pm	21 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	22 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon	23 Church Office Closed	24
25 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist II	26 Church Office Closed	27 Office Hours 9am-12pm	28 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Silent Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	29 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm Al Anon	30 Church Office Closed	31