

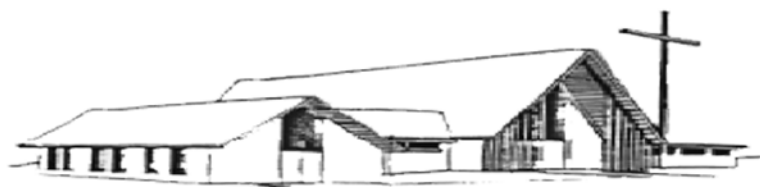
The Lutheran Church
of the
Good Shepherd

*2435 West Andrew Johnson Hwy.
Morristown, Tennessee 37814*

A Congregation of the Southeastern Synod
of the
Lutheran Church in America



THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
1956-1986



A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

In 1956, the Reverend Edwin M. Troutman was sent to Morristown by the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Synod of Virginia. He was to conduct a survey of the community as a first step in the development of a mission congregation.

The first church service was held at the Kingmeyer Hotel on Palm Sunday, March 25, 1956. Other services were held in various places until the congregation secured permission to use the Seventh Day Adventist Church for services.

On October 28, 1956, over 200 members and guests filled All Saints Episcopal Church for the formal service of organization. At that service 63 members (54 adults and 19 baptized children) were received into the congregation, and the parish received admission to the Virginia Synod of the ULCA. The Synod gave administrative and financial assistance to Good Shepherd.

In May of 1962, a service of dedication for a new building was held. The opening service in the church building began with joy but ended in sadness. Pastor C. Ross Ritchie suffered a fatal heart attack at the beginning of the Confession of the Holy Communion.

Within a few years the congregation decided to expand the church. The dedication service for the addition was held on January 21, 1968. The new hall was named in memory of Dr. Ritchie.

During the first 25 years of its life, the congregation witnessed periods of growth and decline in membership, often due to community industrial growth and decline. However, in 1977, Good Shepherd became a self-supporting parish. Growth continued, and by early 1985, the congregation had paid of its indebtedness.

Good Shepherd has increased its involvement in all phases of community social ministry and world-wide service. It has greatly increased its benevolence giving to Synod.

Currently, the congregation is making plans for building a new or enlarged facility to provide more worship, educational, and fellowship space.

We look back on 30 years of ministry, and we look forward to the challenges before us as we continue to be faithful to the call to be the Body of Christ in this place.

"GOOD SHEPHERD OF THE UNIVERSE"

The tile mosaic hanging on the wall of the narthex was made by a vacation church school class in 1965. The completed project is a tribute to the resource-fulness of Joe Sheneman who died in 1981. It is a good example of the way he worked on projects from beginning to completion in this congregation. That year, Joe donated a lot of tile for use in the school and almost every class did some craft work using the tile.

Frances Stambaugh's class made the mosaic with a lot of help from Dana Gray and Joe. Dana had worked with tiles in his high school art class so he gave a lot of assistance to the younger members of the class. The project took place under the tree on the lawn of the church. Joe made the frame, furnished the tile cutters and provided all of the materials needed for the mosaic. Frances taught the class and coordinated the ideas for the design.

The first idea for the mosaic was to have an outline of the Good Shepherd with a swirling background representing the universe. The outline design came from the cover of a church bulletin. After the students saw all the pretty tiles, they wanted to have individual projects for the big picture so they selected church symbols to fit into the background. The following class members were responsible for the symbols: Gwendolyn Beier, The Triangle; Doug Beier, The Crown of Thorns; Marilyn Demko, The Shell; Nicky Demko, The Descending Dove; Ricky Berry, The Fish; and Lisa Berry, The Rose.

For the evening Vacation Church School Program that year, the class proudly unveiled their project titled "Good Shepherd of the Universe" Brown paper cutouts were removed one at a time as each student gave an explanation of his or her symbol. The mosaic was presented to the congregation and has been admired by a lot of people through the years.



SOME REMEMBRANCES OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

From **Pastor Gordy:**

My most memorable moment at Good Shepherd was June 16, 1985, my first Sunday here. That day is especially important because that was the first time that I had ever been the celebrant at the Eucharist. Any pastor's first celebration of Holy Communion is an important event. You can just imagine the sense of awe and the overwhelming nervousness that I experienced. (Luther almost passed out at his first celebration of the Mass.)

To make matters even more stressful, I had only arrived in town the day before and had not had time to find out about the details of Good Shepherd's communion practice. I was not very familiar with communing in "tables" as is necessary here because of the space limitation in the chancel. So, after distributing the bread and wine to the first group of people, I turned to the altar to pick up the paten. When I turned back around, much to my surprise, everyone was still kneeling there!

What should I do? What were they waiting for? After what seemed like forever, I remembered having gone to Communion at an old Lutheran Church in South Carolina where communion was done by "tables." I remembered that the pastor said something to the people in order to dismiss them. But what? Hesitantly, I said, or rather whispered, "Go in peace." And to my great relief, someone at the altar rail heard me and got up. Everyone followed, and the next group came up.

I learned a lot from that. Places, people, and situations are different. There is no one answer to every problem. Situations differ, so solutions differ. That has been a great lesson for me to have learned before under the king mini s try here. Maybe that is what the boy scouts mean by saying "Be prepared."

From **Betty Lowe:**

My most beautiful memory of Good Shepherd was the time when Becca was baptized at a candlelight Christmas Eve service.

From **Dorothy Westerdahl:**

The most touching event I remember at Good Shepherd was the Service of the Word for Healing which we had this past summer. I hope we have another one soon.

SOME REMEMBRANCES OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

From Doris Sheneman:

On the first Sunday in June, 1977, during Pastor Vavrin's tenure, there was a particularly large gathering for the worship service. Out-of-town relatives and friends of Good Shepherd's high school seniors were in attendance. This was the weekend of the high school graduation exercise.

Pastor Vavrin began the confessional part of the service. The communion vessels were in the proper *place* on the *altar*. Pastor Vavrin removed the cover from the vessel; to his disbelief he found no wine in the glasses. As he was to recount *later*, he quickly replaced the cover hoping his eyes had deceived him or in hopes of a miracle.

Nothing changed. Pastor Vavrin then asked those responsible members of the altar guild to please furnish the wine. As the organist played, the vessel was removed from the altar, taken out of the sanctuary. The glasses were filled and the vessel was returned in what must have been a very, very *long* time for several people. Pastor Vavrin, unruffled, completed the service.

If you ask certain *altar* guild members, they have a perfectly good explanation. Pastor Vavrin may not have *fully* appreciated that explanation but it was an interesting experience for several of us here at Good Shepherd.

Ann Cleveland remembers when she and several church women met to *clean* Ritchie Hall. They were surprised to find tiny puddles *allover* the floor. Fearful that there might be a *leak* in the ceiling they kept stepping over and around the puddles looking up. It was a *real* mystery for a while until three very frightened baby rabbits were discovered hiding in a corner behind the piano.

SOME REMEMBRANCES OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

From **Katherine Loew:**

Art and I both have many memories of Good Shepherd. The time Art painted the brown house, the time he and John Cleveland put the storm windows in the church, and on and on. I remember making choir robes. Remember, we thought we'd never finish?

Then there were the years Art and I sang in the choir and we remember the good friends we made there. There was the time we went to White Pine to call on some of our members and we became lost in the village. We can still drive in and around large cities and have no problem finding our way. But White Pine? No way!

These are things we'll never forget. They aren't humorous-just a part of our lives in Morristown.

We pray for the continued growth and success of Good Shepherd and for the continuation of Pastor Gordy's description of the current feeling-"Exciting!" We wish you well.

From **Sally Allen:**

I remember when: Buena Lowe had a "rock party."

Susan Marshall and I stuffed the youth group into Susan's station wagon to go shop for a piano for Ritchie Hall.

Margaret Caldwell climbed out the window of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Twelve-year-old Angee became church organist.

Dr. Ritchie passed away.

Frances, John and Anne, Jay and Joan, and I went to Elizabethton to look for a "preacher."

The Silliks moved to Atlanta.

Betty Birgen asked her Sunday Church School class if they knew what a rabbi was and David Laubach said, "I do. It's a steak."

SOME REMEMBRANCES OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

From **"Father John" and "Lady Margaret" Keister:**

Dear Friends in Christ at Good Shepherd Church,

You may be sure that if we were still in East Tennessee or nearer to Morristown than we are, we would be with you for the festive occasion of All Saints Sunday!

Our "Remember Whens" of Good Shepherd folks span nearly four decades-to the baptism of Carolyn Caldwell in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville in its converted (as to usage) house-chapel on West End Ave. Don and Margaret can fill you in on the details...

We remember hearing of Dr. Ritchie's "symbolic" demise during the dedication of the church building. And how Dr. J. Roy Strock, who served Sinking Springs Church (1951-54) as I did most recently, took over and concluded the worship that day.

We recall trying to worship in a Lutheran Church one Sunday before Labor Day -we were too early or too late at Marion, Va., Kingsport, Tn., and arrived at Good Shepherd as the folks were leaving! I remember, too, that Dr. Caldwell wrote one time inquiring if I might be interested in coming to Good Shepherd as Pastor.

Amongst her collection of hundreds of snapshots, Mrs. K. has one of Carolyn Caldwell in an over-sized cotta lighting a candle in an Advent Wreath which her mother had constructed for use in the new church.

We count ourselves blessed in many ways, not the least of which is in counting among cherished friends the Caldwells, the Lowes, former Pastors Wertz, Vavrin, Sillik, and their families, and your present spiritual leader, Pro Julian Gordy and Morgan.

From **Pr. Ellsworth and Mrs. Kay Freyer and family:**

Congratulations and God's continued Blessings to you all! We thank you for your kind invitation to share in the celebration of your 30th Anniversary. As a family, we have had many happy vacations with you and sad occasions brought us to your doors - so we share a Christian bond with each of you. Our prayer that God will continue to bless you as you minister to one another, your pastor and his family and to your community.

Your out-stretched hands in welcome
The people's friendly smile
Your congenial southern hospitality
Brought us down a mile.

Your kindness towards our family
Warmed our hearts its plain
And your spirit-filled worship service
Will surely bring us back again!

(Kay's parents are John & Ann Cleveland)

SOME REMEMBRANCES OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

From **Pastor Delller Chilton, Chine Grove, N. C.:**

One day while I was on internship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenwood, S. C., Martha Christian came in with her sister Margaret Caldwell. Margaret was picking up some paraments Immanuel was giving to Good Shepherd. Margaret told me that her pastor (Dale Sillik) was leaving. She asked for recommendations. I gave her the name of the person I thought to be the best in the next graduating class at L.T.S.S.-Julian Gordy. The entire encounter took up about 5-10 minutes on a lazy summer afternoon. I forgot about it. Around the first of January, 1985, I got a call from Julian Gordy. He said, "Who do you know in Morristown, Tenn.?" I said, "I don't know nybody." He said, "Well, a call committee just phoned me and they said they got my name from you." Then I remembered my encounter with Margaret Caldwell.

Now, as Paul Harvey says-for "the rest of the story." I really wasn't supposed to be at the church that afternoon. I was supposed to be out Visiting, but I didn't feel good (my excuse) and I was bumming around the office reading a novel.

Therefore, if it weren't for the fact that an intern got "lazy and ignored his duty one hot, lazy afternoon, you might not have heard the name of Julian Gordy. The Lord does move in mysterious ways!

Much love and peace.

From **Angee Allen:**

On November 17, 1977, a very timid and frightened eleven-year-old girl walked slowly toward the chancel for the first time. She was about to undertake the seemingly monstrous task of playing the organ. Since that time she has assisted in worship times. She has grown in many ways, learned more sons, and experienced more love and support from church family than she could have ever imagined.

Mere thanks can never express the deep gratitude I have for the opportunities, guidance, and love Good Shepherd Church has given me.