

Episcopal Church Buys Land Near Mars Hill For Building

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit has purchased land on Bone Camp Road, two miles west of Mars Hill, for the purpose of constructing a church building.

The church began weekly meetings in temporary quarters in Madison County a little more than a year ago.

Despite its long history both in the Christian tradition and in the United States, there has never before been a full-time Episcopal parish in Madison County. A part-time mission, St. John's, was established in Hot Springs by the family of Peggy Dotterer (now a member of the Church of the Holy Spirit), but the building was removed several decades ago.

Members of the new church include residents of Hot Springs, Big Pine, Marshall, Shelton Laurel, Petersburg, Mars Hill, Burnsville, Wolf Laurel, Weaverville and North Asheville.

"The Episcopal church is an unusual blend of tradition and openness," said the Rev. Susan Sherard, the new church's minister. "As a

group, we include very different kinds of people and points of view. But through our more traditional form of worship, we are able to offer up these differences to God and celebrate what draws us together in the first place, and that is God's love."

The church emphasizes the importance of community and our dependence on one another, she said. The name "Holy Spirit" is taken from the Bible, meaning God's creative love, with special reference to the feast at Pentecost when the Apostles were inspired by the spirit of God's love to continue the example and teachings of Jesus, she said.

The Episcopal church also considers itself a "church of history," and as such it is anchored in many centuries of tradition.

The name Episcopal comes from the Greek work "episkopos," which was adopted in the second century A.D. to refer to the chief leader of a Christian community in a particular

place. Today this person is called the bishop, whose duty is to ordain ministers (or priests), to serve as pastor to priests, and to welcome new members into the church. In North Carolina, there are three bishops; the bishop of Western North Carolina is headquartered in Black Mountain.

Most members of the church participate in one or more of the areas in which the church is active, including worship, outreach, stewardship, hospitality, education and community life. One of the church's most important commitments is to outreach—helping those in need who are outside the parish, and this effort is directed primarily at Madison and neighboring counties, she said. It is organizing a Hospice program to minister to the dying, and is active in assisting such local groups as Mountains of Madison, Unake Center and Neighbors in Need.

For more information on the Church of the Holy Spirit, call Susan Sherard at 689-2517 or write P.O. Box 956, Mars Hill, NC 28754.



The Rev. Susan Sherard
...new church minister

Church News

Singing Set Saturday

The Union Valley Missionary Baptist Church will hold a fourth Saturday night singing at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Rev. Willard Norton invites everyone to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the singing will be cancelled.

Board Discusses Bikes, Sewers

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen heard area residents discuss problems with three-wheeler bikes and septic tanks at the board's regular meeting Jan. 5.

One resident said kids are racing down his street disrupting the neighborhood. The resident was concerned for the rider's safety.

Police Chief John Barrett said he would talk to the kids and their parents to work out a solution.

A Hot Springs couple requested the town install a new septic tank to replace the homemade tank they now have.

Town officials said that the town could not replace the tank, but would pump out the existing structure.

Jean and Robert Payne said that when the town originally installed the septic system they did not request a new tank. Now it appears their tank is in need of repair or replacement.

Alderman Don E. Franklin said the septic tanks were installed under a grant and there are no more funds available.

Hot Springs Mayor Kenny Ramsey called an emergency meeting of the board of aldermen for Thursday.

At the meeting, Ramsey said the town is responsible for maintaining the system and they would pump out the septic tank for the Paynes. If the tank should cave in, the town would be responsible for fixing or replacing it, whichever is less expensive.

Madison Man To Head WNC Association

Jacob F. Grigg of Mars Hill, president of Mountain Farm Credit Service, was re-elected last week as president of the 18-county Western North Carolina Development Association. He has headed the farm and rural development program the past two years.

Serving with Grigg as first vice-president will be F. Ed Broadwell, president of Clyde Savings and Loan Association; E. Charles Dyson, vice

president and general manager of Carolina Power and Light Company, second vice president; Linda Ford, Enka, secretary; and, Jerry Sutton, Franklin, treasurer.

The annual meeting was attended by a large number of leaders from throughout the western counties.

The development association, an agricultural promotion and community improvement organization

that is recognized as one of the nation's pioneer "self-help" rural development programs, has completed 36 years.

It is financed in large part by contributions from local county governments of the area, along with businesses and individuals.

One of its major activities is sponsorship of the Western North Carolina Community Development Program in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and local sponsors. Nearly 100 organized communities took part in this grass roots, self-help improvement effort last year, along with more than 100 other groups in special youth, beautification and senior citizens' programs.

Elected to the board of directors of the regional organization were Charles Anders, Hendersonville; R.W. Denman, Waynesville; Frank L. Fitz Simons Jr., Hendersonville; Barry Hippis, Cherokee; J.D. Obermiller, Horse Shoe; Roy Roberts, Weaverville; and, Charles Von Canon, Banner Elk.

Among those re-elected to the board were Fred Alexander, Franklin; F. Ed Broadwell, Clyde; Dr. David Burnette, Asheville; John Creadick, Asheville; T. Gibbs, Rutherfordton; William T. (Jack)

Grover; S.E. Johnston, Jr., Fletcher; Sam H. McGuire, Jr., Hendersonville; Clifton Metcalf, Waynesville; Mrs. Cary Owen, Asheville; Robert Price, Skyland; Jerry Sutton, Franklin; L.T. Ward, Arden; and, Fred Williams, Marion.

Also serving as a director of the organization is Mrs. Ruth Gregory of Madison County.

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Later Is What It Is



I received a birthday card that stood somewhere between comical and serious. It stated: "Sorry this is late. Guess you knew that sooner or later I'd send you a card—but gee whiz, I'm sorry that sooner is what it ain't and later is what it is!"

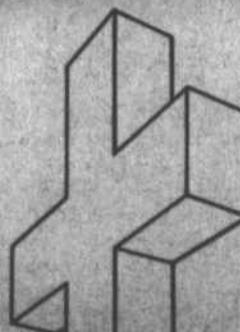
That will hold you for a while! And pinch you awake as you remember all those things you promised yourself you would do: that trip "down home" to visit the kin; a long overdue letter still unwritten, that kindly phone call not yet dialed.

"Sooner is what it ain't."

What about those things you promised yourself? The unread "good book"? The lazy day and walk through the park?

Sometimes we discover that we live life in the land of "later is what it is." Gone are those precious persons who could have lighted our lives, and we're theirs. Gone are the golden opportunities to touch and be touched by hosts of persons standing at our door knocking.

"Later is what it is," and we stand over the stone markers of unused privileges and weep, knowing that such markers could have been monuments to achieved-moments but instead they are tombstones to failed causes.



Scripures Selected by The American Bible Society

Sunday Romans 1:18-17

Monday Romans 8:18-30

Tuesday 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Wednesday 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Thursday Ephesians 3:1-21

Friday Ephesians 5:10-20

Saturday Philippians 4:1-9

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See you in
Church
Sunday

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