

Christ Church

Good News and Notes

*** Please note that all new items for this edition are in red**

Love and the Really Real

The whole of all the Christian “good news” could be summed up in this one point: that when God gazes upon us, upon each and every one of us, God sees someone who is beloved and cherished.

God does not see the imperfections we like to magnify or that the world tells us make us less than loveable, but gazes upon us seeing all of the possibility that was planted in us at our birth.

In my years as priest this has been my biggest surprise and my greatest challenge---I continually find it almost impossible to convince people that they are truly, madly, deeply beloved of God. There seems to be just too many competing messages---messages from family, messages from the media, and sadly even many messages from the Church that drown out these soft and life changing words from God:

“You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. This is God’s greatest gift to us but one we often find so hard to receive.

We first hear these words as Jesus stands on the shores of the Jordan river and surpassing all expectations, Jesus just wades right on out--- he wades waist deep into human brokenness and in so doing he tells us God is not of wrath and judgment, but of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness.

It can be so easy to believe that the world in all its striving and division is our true reality. But when we listen and follow Jesus we are offered a very different reality—a reality that is just as present to us should we decide to reach out and grasp it and hold onto it as the deeper truth of our lives.

The world *can* be harsh and cold---Jesus knows this all too well. God’s reality does not deny that. It *is* true that on any given day we may well face the possibility of feeling unloved or abandoned. We might feel rejected or abandoned by a parent or other loved one; by a job, by a church, or by our own self-condemnation, or maybe by media images that tell us we simply do not measure up.

But in the *really* real---God’s reality---rejection, shame, and abandonment never have the last word---the last word always belongs to God and God’s

last word is always love. God speaks right into the heart of our pain and offers the words, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased."

In the heart of any perceived rejection or diminishment of your soul close your eyes, let the noise of the world fall away and listen...listen for that voice soft and gentle as a dove because it *is* seeking you out. And if you will allow yourself to hear, you will have no doubt; you will never feel less-than or fearful again.

Jesus' whole life is about claiming solidarity with the fragile human condition. And it is in our own ordinary daily lives that we claim solidarity with God's hope for all of humankind.

We have all been given the gift of God's eternal undying love---it is our truest and best inheritance. We are sons and daughters of God. We do not have to spend our whole lives trying to earn what we already have. In the end it is up to us to claim God's love as our own and live into this God centered reality for all we're worth.

The full and total sum of God's love is a great gift. When finally received this profound gift changes us. This profound gift defines us. When shared, this gift has the power to transform not only our own lives, but the world in

which we live---a world desperately hungry to be invited into the *really* real world of God's compassion, unity, mercy and forgiveness.

Grace and Peace, Stephanie+

Program Notes

In the next week I am preparing to depart for a month of rest and re-creation—which will likely also involve a lot of hard, but joyful work settling into my new farm!

It is my hope that you too will rest and relax and enjoy July as a time to celebrate that a large part of our ministry together is to simply worship and enjoy the fellowship of our wonderful community. We can be so busy being at the "work" of the church we can forget to simply "be" the church.

There are wonderful things awaiting us in August as we begin to rev back up for the fall and I look forward to returning rested and refreshed.

As part of my leave-taking preparation I will be preparing a month of GN&N messages for you while I'm away, many revised from former messages I have written. So, I will be gone, but you will still hear from me! And, Christina and I are at work preparing all of the worship booklets ahead so those will also be ready for the month I am away.

I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday and again Sunday night for Mountain Soul!

Blessings, Stephanie+

**There will be no
Wednesday 10:00am Holy Eucharist
for the month of July and will return on regular schedule August 2nd.**

There are a few Episcopal Calendars on table downstairs that were extras and are free (while they last) to anyone.

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Tomorrow

**New River Float Trip
June 23 Friday - 10:00AM until ?**

A chance to get outdoors and enjoy a float trip on the New River. We will carpool to Riverside Outfitters which is located on the South Fork of the New River at Kings Creek Bridge beyond Piney Creek School. This is a nice section of the river with a few gentle rapids and it is shallow enough to stand up in. Riverside offers tube (\$12) and kayak (sit upon- \$22) rentals and will provide the shuttle for a trip that will be approximately 2 hours depending upon water level. Riverside has a Food Truck this year where you can buy sandwiches and drinks. We can buy food or bring food for a picnic following the float. We did this several years ago and ended up planning 2 trips since so many people wanted to go. We had a blast. This is open to family and friends.

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**Mountain Soul June 25, 2017 @ 6pm
Aaron Burdett & Band**



Creating music isn't a means to an end, it is an end with a meaning for Aaron Burdett. Writing and creating songs is rooted somewhere deep in his psyche; it's something that can't be denied and must be shared. His lyrics are soul-touching, intelligent, witty, and poetic all at once, while his music style is a seamless blend of Americana, country, blues, bluegrass, and folk-rock that cohesively creates a story.

Aaron is listed as one of the top 10 most important musicians of western North Carolina by *WNC Magazine*, alongside such greats as Doc Watson, Steep Canyon Rangers, and The Avett Brothers. He has also received critical acclaim as a songwriter, winning *Our State Magazine's* Carolina Songs competition in 2012 with "Going Home to Carolina." Aaron's song "Magpie" won third place bluegrass song in the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest in 2013. Over the years Aaron has been a finalist in numerous other songwriting competitions, including The Mountain Stage Songwriting Contest, The NC Songwriter's Cooperative Songwriting Contest, and the Hank Williams Songwriting Contest.

Aaron's writing is as prolific and genuine as the man. He grew up the oldest of three boys in the fairly isolated small town in Saluda, NC, where the Blue Ridge meets the Smoky Mountains. When Aaron was about 10 years old he was introduced to the music of Cat Stevens, the first of many musical influences that include the Grateful Dead, Led Zeppelin, Doc Watson, Tony Rice, Norman Blake, and David Grier.

During his teen years, Aaron found his tenor voice in a choral setting and, performed in musical theater. In 1992 he went to the prestigious Governor's School of North Carolina for choral music. In his 20s, he played extensively in Boone, NC and owned a music store that sold instruments and offered lessons.

No stranger to hard work, Aaron's sense of adventure took him across the country working on various types of farms and ranches. While many mainstream country singers pay lip-service to the blue-collar working world, Aaron's songs come from his life experiences.

After seeing a lot of his friends and musical colleagues struggle to be full-time musicians, sometimes at the cost of their marriages and family lives, Aaron moved back to his hometown and decided to go another route. He started a construction business, built a home for himself and his wife, and started a family, all while continuing to write songs and playing music, recording an album every year or two. In 2013, Aaron decided to pursue music full time, so fast forward to 2017, and his distinctive clear voice has carried his dream into a successful career. Aaron's songs effortlessly transition from solo performance to full band, with equal emotional impact on audiences.

Aaron has 7 albums, *Refuge* (2017 on Organic Records), *Tinderbox* (2015 on Organic records), *Fruits of My Labor* (2014 on Organic Records), *Breathing Underwater* (2012), *Stand Up Eight* (2010), *Resolve* (2008), and *The Weight of Words* (2005).

Vocals, Guitar / Aaron Burdett
Lap Steel / Jackson Dulaney
Bass / Jeff Hinkle
Drums / James Kylan

"A lot of great male voices have come from North Carolina including Eric Church, James Taylor, Randy Travis and Don Williams...Aaron Burdett has proven this his name needs to added to that list." –**Rick Amburgey, No Depression**

"Tinderbox is amongst the best albums released in 2015"–**Matt BJORKE, Roughstock.com**

"The more I listen, the more I like this music." –**Larry Stephens, The Lonesome Road Review**

"Well-crafted original songwriting... a bit acoustic, a bit electric, and a bit early New Grass Revival."–**Casey Driessen (Béla Fleck, Tim O'Brien, Darrell Scott, Steve Earle)**

"One of our favorite regional singer-songwriters." —**Martin Anderson, Program Director, WNCW, Spindale, NC**

"His sense of melody and depth of lyrics is the perfect combination. His trajectory will be comparable to Ray LaMontagne and Amos Lee when people start to take notice. It will be exciting to watch." — **Brian Swenk (Big Daddy Love), The Mountain Times**

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Women's Fellowship

Friends in Faith meets on Wednesdays at 11:00. We gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share our lives. [We are currently studying the book What Happens When Women Pray by Evelyn Christensen.](#) Please join us!

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June 28 **Ladies Luncheon**

The ladies of the church are invited to gather for lunch on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. We will meet at 12:30pm at **The Homeplace** at 577 North Main Street. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in fellowship hall. Denise Seckel will be our host.

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Backpack Program Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are welcome to serve with the Children's Summer Backpack Program. We need volunteers to assemble bags for the children and to welcome and give out the bags. Teens are welcome to help and receive credit for BETA Club or college applications.

Contact Theresa March at 336-372-6560,
Solid Rock Food Closet to help.

Thank You!

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Announcements in Good News & Notes: To ensure timely and accurate communication within the parish, if you have an announcement to be included in Good News & Notes, Bulletin, or Prayers of the People, please write it out exactly as you would like it to be stated and either email it to Christina (ccepisopal@skybest.com) or leave it on her desk. The deadline for submissions is 10:00am on Wednesday to be included in Thursday's email.

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For Urgent Prayer Request- Contact Gary Medley. Please be sure to get permission to share any details for the Prayers. Also, if you like to be listed as an Urgent Prayer Partner, please contact.

Great thanks & peace, Gary Medley
gapdweller@gmail.com
336.372.7464 or 336.572.2905

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For any building or property issues please contact; Phil Donaldson, Chris Huysman or Willie Plummer with your concern.

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Mark Your Calendars

Friday, June 23

10:00am- New River Float Trip

Sunday, June 25

9:15am- Adult Formation Episcopal 102

10:30am- Holy Eucharist

6:00pm – Mountain Soul- Aaron Burdett and Band

Wednesday, June 28

10:00am- Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

12:30pm-Ladies Luncheon

Sunday, July 2

10:30am- Holy Eucharist

July 3 & 4

Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

Sunday, July 9

10:30am- Holy Eucharist

Parish Luncheon

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**Prayer requests from the staff and prisoners
River North Correctional Center, Independence, VA**

River North Prayer Request from 2017-06-16 Services

Please pray for my mother to find guidance in her life and to continue to work hard. Pray for me to continue to stay out of trouble. Thank you and God bless. -JS

Pray for my special friend that he will feel better and continue to heal. Pray for our families. Pray we will come back together soon.-CF

Pray for my wife and that we will come back together and pray for our families.-CF

Praise the Lord for always being there. Thank God for providing for all of us. Praise the Lord. God is always near.-EC

Pray for my family.-GS

May the Lord bless all of the souls represented in this place and may spiritual revelation of the purpose of God be revealed as to why the great commission was give. Help us to fulfill it completely.-JF

Pray for my family and for the families of my victims.-CD

Pray that we do the Lord's work in here through God.-BB

Pray for me and my three sons and my family. Pray for the church and the guests and our prayer team. Pray for the world. Whatever God does is best. May God bless us all. Love always.-SC

Pray for this country and its leaders. Pray for revival in the country. -CB

Pray for everybody around the world who needs God's love in their lives today and everyday.

Pray for my family and my friend and brother.

\Pray I endure and never give up. I am hoping to make parole this year. I pray we get a job and manage. Pray for unity and self-control and have a clear focused. Pray for family and friends and --.-MC

Pray for my mother with Alzheimer's and my children and grand-children. Pray for all the inmates here.-CB

God bless.-CJ

Pray for my family. -CR

Lord Jesus, guide me where You want me to go. Sometimes I am caught up into my own choices. Thank You. Amen. -AR

Watch over my friend and her daughters. She and her youngest daughter have seizures pretty bad. Her youngest has a virus and keeps running a high fever. She is a strong God fearing/loving woman. She has a heart disease. Keep her strong.-DN

Hallelujah! Praise God! Pray that God will perfect everything that concerns us! Pray that God's Word is the only authority in our lives!
Pray for my family, my two sons. For my brothers and sisters in Christ, for the ones who are not saved and for me. -DR

Pray for the Lord to cause the people that look at my petition to have clemency to have mercy and favor in granting my petition.-JS

Give thanks for using me today.-HB

Free indeed! Free indeed! By the grace of God.-AR

To God be the glory.

God, I give glory to Your holy name and I thank You for our lord and savior Jesus Christ. For giving me a renewed heart to obey and serve You. I thank You for bringing back and keeping our brother, the chaplain, safe and give Your angels charge over his family while he is here. Lift up in prayer – and that he makes parole.-CJ

I would like to just thank Jesus for one more day. Thank God for my brothers and sisters today.
Keep my aunts and uncles and me in your prayers. Our health is not good. Thanks God bless you. -GT

Pray for my family, friends, enemies, and for all those that are lost and do not know God. Pray for forgiveness of God for all our sins and short comings. Glory to god. Amen. -KD

Continue to pray for me and the way that I think. I have a charge coming up this Tuesday and I ask that I get prayer for mercy. Pray for my family and all the people I care about.-MD

Thanks and praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ. He saved me, blesses me and continues to prosper me greatly, even beyond what I am able to imagine. Worthy is the lamb of God. God's mercy endures forever.-MB

Pray for the lost to be found in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus the Christ. Pray for – angel and ask God to give him patience and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Lord make me a sanctuary for Yourself. Amen.-PP

Lord pray for me, my family, friends. Keep us all under Your wing.
Glory be to God. Pray for my sins and bless those who do.
Pray for those who are going through so much hurt, trials, and tribulations.
Pray for all the little children at St. Jude's; for my family, that God will
forgive me, for those that I have hurt and let down and that they will forgive
me. Pray for peace.-RL

Pray for my family along with everyone in these walls. Be with the judges
that reside over my habeas. Thank You Lord. You are great and mighty. -
MW

I need you to pray for me. I have a problem with my health and I need the
doctor to send me to the hospital to let my body get back to health and to
have God help me through health.-DL

Dear Lord, praise You, let Your spirit live within us. Help us pray, be in Your
spirit. Bless us. Amen.
Pray that in time all wrongs are made right.-RL

I pray that in the name of Jesus God takes control of my life and grants me
the gifts of the Holy Spirit, repentance, and the desire and power to
overcome all sin in my life. I thank God for the grace between me and God.
Pray for those who are seeking a light at the end of the tunnel of
uncertainty.-MM

Thank You God for all You do for me and for my family, friends, and loved
ones. I pray that You will continue to keep Your arms and hedge of
protection with all manner of healings in our lives.-VM

I would like to ask for prayers on my transfer that our Lord will allow it to
come soon.