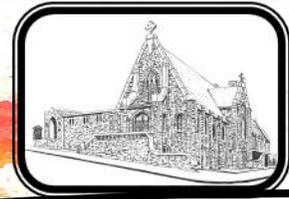


# The Rainbow



## Meet Brian and Lise Tracey *by Mimi Merritt*

If you regularly attend Sunday morning services at Christ Church – or if you have visited the newly restored Granada Theater in downtown Bluefield for a film or a music event – you likely have already met Brian and Lise Tracey. The couple first ventured into our church about a year ago after moving to Bluefield from Silver Spring, Md., for Brian’s new position as Executive Director of Bluefield Arts and Revitalization Corporation, better known as BARC.

As The Granada Theater approaches its first anniversary celebration on August 27, Brian has been much in the news to talk about the many BARC projects, which include the beautiful and historic theater, as well as the Bluefield Arts Center. A front-page article this weekend in the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* details Brian’s work in revitalizing downtown Bluefield with arts activities that entertain and educate:

[https://www.bdtonline.com/news/tracey-looks-to-the-future-with-granada-theater/article\\_ce4b17fc-0f7e-11ed-900d-336d4270c75b.html](https://www.bdtonline.com/news/tracey-looks-to-the-future-with-granada-theater/article_ce4b17fc-0f7e-11ed-900d-336d4270c75b.html)



And if you were in church July 31, you heard Brian deliver a sermon he wrote.

“In addition to being a committed Christian, Brian has a Master’s degree in Christian Ministry and training in homiletics,” said Father Lou, explaining last week why he asked Brian to be guest preacher. He knew he would have to be away July 31, and that Russ Hatfield would not be available. He had had several conversations with Brian and knew that he had a degree in ministry.

For a more personal look at Brian and Lise, gathered from an exchange I had last week with the couple, continue reading.

I knew they had shopped around before committing to regularly attending a church in Bluefield, so I asked them what had attracted them to Christ Church, and how they had decided to get to know us better.

“We both liked Chad’s sermons as well as the warm and friendly feeling we received from members who spoke with us at the end of the services,” they responded. “We also liked the flow of the

services since the material in each bulletin was familiar to our Methodist church bulletins. And we liked that communion is celebrated at every service. We have enjoyed Lou's sermons, too, since he began his duties as Interim Rector."

Though Brian and Lise relocated to Bluefield as a result of Brian's position as Executive Director of BARC, I wondered what convinced them to try something different than what they had previously been doing. Brian had spent most of his career in Washington, D.C., at Bank of America in banking and finance, concentrating in community development.

"We were both at a stage in our lives where we were ready to try something new," they said.

Brian's more than 20 years of experience in community development included affordable housing development with tax credit financing. The move to Bluefield gave him the chance to do grassroots work at the non-profit level.

As the Executive Director of BARC, which began as a start-up entity a year ago, and a member of the city's planning commission, Brian has applied his non-profit management experience in historic preservation, affordable housing, grant writing and community planning.

Lise is an elementary school teacher with expertise in teaching English language learners. This past year she worked with younger children within a school-based pilot program for pre-school students in Tazewell County. She is currently taking some time to visit family and friends and reflect on what she will do next.

The move from Silver Spring to Bluefield was also a rather significant geographical change, too, from a more urban setting to a smaller city. Was it a tough transition?

"Bluefield is rural, with many beautiful mountain views, compared to the urban close-in suburbs of Silver Spring, where we lived for over 30 years," they agreed. "We love living in a Bluefield historical home built in 1935." Their house is familiar to many Christ Church members as the former home of the Meachums, longtime church members.

"The greenspace in both places is similar and we see the same wildlife, as well," they said. "We do not miss the traffic and 495 beltway noise. It is so convenient to be near the Granada Theater, the Bluefield Arts Center, and the Craft Library as well as the fitness center and Bluefield City Park. We are eclectic foodies and will drive to find Thai or Indian food. However, we have found the best soul food, even including D.C., right here in Bluefield – the fried fish dinner at Frank and Clara's on Bland Street."

For recreation and self-care, Brian and Lise like to run around Bluefield's city park.

"And occasionally, we run in 5K races to see if we can win a medal as one of the fastest runners in our age group," they said – a challenge at which they've succeeded.

They also enjoy hiking at Pinnacle Rock and The Cascades, and more: "We also like to take road trips to see picturesque mountain views and learn about local history. Some of our favorite road trips this past year have been Mine #3 in Pocahontas, Va., Coalwood, W.Va., Welch, W.Va., Hinton, W.Va., Lewisburg, W.Va., and Milton, W.Va., for a Blenko glass factory tour."

Lise is in the process of making a quilt and has enjoyed doing yoga and playing pickleball at the local fitness center, as well.

The Traceys are also avid readers. Brian just finished reading *Nimitz at War* by Craig Symonds.

“I found it fascinating to learn so much about Admiral Nimitz’s leadership style and how he masterminded the US Pacific Fleet’s response to Pearl Harbor,” he said.

Lise just finished reading *Mala’s Cat* by Mala Kacenberg, which Brian read as well, since Lise liked it so much.

“This story really spoke to me because it is about how a young girl was able to outwit Nazi soldiers and hostile villagers and survive with only her cat, which was her spiritual guide during the Holocaust,” Lise said.

They also both enjoy watching old movies and introducing people of all ages (including children) to the “amazing” number of movies now being shown at the Granada Theater. Through the Lessons in Film and Education (LIFE) program Brian implemented at the Granada, more than 1,700 students in grades pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade from 13 different schools have visited the Granada over the past year with their teachers to see films they study in class. Brian wrote all the lesson plans for the program, which is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Virginias.

I asked what ministries of Christ Church were they interested in engaging in.

“We hope to participate in the Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry Lou is starting,” they replied. “We feel this ministry is an important way to strengthen personal connections to Christ Episcopal Church when members are not able to participate in person.”

The Traceys have three children: John, Daniel, and Annie. John is a scientist completing a graduate program, and he will be starting a post-doctoral fellowship in the fall at a lab just north of New York City. Annie was an art history major and has just started a position at the Storm King Art Center, near where John will be working. She’s also a part-time graduate student studying museum management. Daniel recently moved to Boston to begin a graduate program at Tufts in agriculture, food, and the environment.



### **Reflections on Being Interim Rector** *By the Rev. Lou Hayes*

I have had the privilege of serving as your Interim Rector for about six and one half months. During this time I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you personally, and to work closely with the Vestry and Rector Search Committee. I love leading the Sunday liturgy and all that entails, and writing my weekly email and monthly Rainbow messages. You have been incredibly warm, welcoming and forgiving!

This is the third time I have served as an Interim Rector since retiring as the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, Pa., in 2017. My first time as Interim Rector was at the Church of the Epiphany in Oakville, Ontario, in the Anglican Church of Canada. I served in that capacity for one year, from the time the former Rector retired until the new Rector was in place. I discovered the different feel of being an Interim as opposed to Rector – knowing that my tenure was relatively fixed, that my primary responsibilities involved guiding the parish through the search process and time of transition and preparing them for the future but not being part of that future. Being an Interim Rector is a little bit like being a grandparent. You love the parish as you would your child, but you know there's going to come a time in the not-too-distant future when you will hand the parish back to the incoming Rector.

My second Interim was at St. Jude's Anglican Church, also in Oakville. That Interim was quite different in that it was only for four months. The previous Rector tragically died in a motorcycle accident shortly after losing a very close election for Bishop of their Diocese. Needless to say, the circumstances called for a longer than usual transition period, and the first Interim needed to leave after serving for over a year. I came in to finish the process and deal with some issues that had festered during the previous period. I didn't know at the outset how long I would be there, which would be until a new Rector was called. But the four months I was there ended up being one of my richest experiences in parish ministry.

As is usually the case with Interims, I don't know how long I will be with you, because I don't know how long it will take to call a new Rector and have that person in place. Most likely it will take the better part of a year, as it did in my first Interim. But here's one thing I do know for sure: I will not be your next Rector. I say that because I have had several parishioners ask me why I can't be the new Rector. To be clear, there are several good reasons: as with virtually all Interim positions, it's spelled out in my letter of agreement that I cannot become the Rector. Equally or more importantly, I'm too old at age 77 to serve as a Rector. And you need someone who can serve full time and live in the community.

I look forward to continuing to walk with you during this sacred time of transition. Please join me in praying that God will bring the right person to serve as the next Rector of Christ Episcopal Church.



**Prayer List:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Chris Justice, Brian, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, and Lilian Blackman

We hope that most of you have been fortunate enough to enjoy the flowers out front at Christ Church and those planted in the memorial garden. Christ Church volunteers have made this possible by planting in early June, and Parish Life committee members water these plants on a volunteer basis. Pansies will be planted in the fall and donations are now being taken so they can be purchased. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time to beautifying our church: Terry Whittington, David Hardin, Patricia Taylor, Betty Nash, Patty Richardson, Elizabeth Clement, Mary Catherine Williams, and Linda Ammar.

### **Food and Pantry Report**

7/21/2022

Food bags distributed: 25

Volunteers: Betty Nash

Peter and Patricia Taylor

### **Fellowship Home**

A meal consisting of BBQ, cole slaw, baked beans, deviled eggs, watermelon, and brownies was delivered to the men at the Fellowship Home on Thursday, July 21.



### **Church Furniture Moved to Charleston** *By Mary Catherine Williams*

Over the years we have warehoused church furniture and hangings from churches in McDowell County. On July 8, two men from the Men's Fellowship Home came to the Christ Church to load the furniture into a U-Haul truck, and Jim Pulse drove the truck to Charleston to the Diocesan office. Following him was David Kersey, who drove both of them back to Bluefield. The hope is that there may be churches that will be able to use these items. Thank you, David and Jim.



### **DOK Community Project** *By Mary Catherine Williams*

The St. Margaret of Scotland chapter is sponsoring a local community project to collect school supplies for The Wade Center. A plastic tub is in the narthex for this collection. Our plan is to take these items to the center in time for the starting of school. We may continue collecting through the year so that the children will have school supplies throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact Mary Catherine Williams at [mkw@dlwco.com](mailto:mkw@dlwco.com).



The **annual parish picnic** is right around the corner, Sunday, August 28, to be exact. For those of you who have not attended this event (casual dress, of course!) it is worth taking the time to mark your calendar so you won't miss it! This year's picnic will be held at Shelter 1 of the City Park. Our church service will be held at 10:30 a.m. (note the time change) and a carry-in picnic-style lunch will be held immediately following the service. David Hardin will provide chicken, and the church will provide sweet and unsweetened tea, lemonade, and ice. Just bring your favorite side dish or dessert and come ready to eat. Once everyone has eaten to their heart's content, it has been the tradition to board the Ridge Runner Train for a trip around the park. See you there!



### **Recycling** by *Mary Catherine Williams*

Since Mercer County has started recycling again, we have four containers at the church that need to be emptied, and the bags of recyclables need to be taken to the recycling centers.

Recycling dates and locations can be found at [www.mercercountywv.org](http://www.mercercountywv.org), which lists the following for Bluefield, W.Va.: Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon at Tractor Supply, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Mitchell Stadium.

We need volunteers to take our recyclables to these locations. The containers are on the main level of the church outside the men's restroom and downstairs in Rowley Hall. If we do not want to do this, the containers may be emptied and stored. Thanks to anyone willing to do this.



### *August Birthdays*

August 3 Michelle Parks  
August 3 Sue Troutner  
August 4 Bryce Wimmer  
August 6 Kyle Kersey  
August 10 Mike Hunter  
August 10 Stan Kiser

August 10 Theodore Lewis  
August 11 Alyson Bowling  
August 12 Emma Bennett  
August 16 Louisa Bennett  
August 17 Luke Beemer  
August 18 Bea Paine

August 19 Scott Meachum  
August 23 Susanne Pulse  
August 25 Mary Lynne Williams  
August 29 Dee Puckett  
August 29 I.V. Sudduth  
August 31 Delia Kersey  
August 31 Peyton Wimmer



August 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
7 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	8	9	10 6:00 Vestry	11	12	13
14 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	15 Saint Mary The Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ	16	17	18 9:00 Food Pantry	19	20
21 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	22	23	24 Saint Bartholomew The Apostle	25	26	27
28 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Holy Eucharist	29 The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist	30	31	Annual Parish Picnic Sunday, August 28 10:30 a.m. Shelter #1 in City Park		

**The following people have graciously offered to donate flowers for the month of August:**

August 7, 2022 David Hardin  
 August 14, 2022 Paul & Rebecca Broyles  
 August 21, 2022 David and Debbie Faber  
 August 28, 2022 Bill Davis

**Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for August:**

Lector:	Acolyte
Teresa Paine	Rob Merritt
David Kersey	Becky Kersey/Elizabeth Burton
Katherine Lewis	Becky Kersey/Elizabeth Burton
Linda Ammar	Katherine Lewis

**Altar Guild for August:**

Mimi Merritt, Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
200 DUHRING STREET  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



*August 2022*

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