

Mercy Ministry News

Grace Mills River | February 2021

Greetings from the GMR Diaconate!

Shepherd Support Team Formed

The team of Becky Dotson (Diaconate), Rick Hebert (Elder), and Alyssa Rock (Staff) has been formed and recently met with Allison Rickman

and Greg Van Voorhis to identify ways to support Elders and Flock Advocates in their shepherding roles. The Shepherding Ministry at Grace was created about three years ago to provide a means for folks to connect with leadership and leadership to know who is in the flock.

The idea was to then point members toward a small group or other group for personal connection. As a part of that mission, our team will serve as a resource for Elders and Flock Advocates to help every member feel cared for and encourage them as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Our team will be gathering ideas and providing training and support for Elders and Flock Advocates in fulfilling these important roles in our church.



PAUL SHOGREN

I am married to Esther and we have four adult children and two grandchildren. We have lived in Henderson County for over 23 years and our kids have gone through Henderson County schools, Blue Ridge Community College and Appalachian State. Our three boys, (Will, Lee, and Jesse) live in the county and our daughter, Betsy, moved to Oregon about six years ago. I retired as a health care administrator three years ago after 30 years in that profession. Before that I was a Naval Flight officer, 10 years active duty and 15 more in the reserves overlapping with my health care career.

Esther and I have served in the cafe, assisted with communion, and as greeters as well as helping set up and clean up for events over the past 18 years at GMR and are Flock Advocates. I have been involved in the men's group which met before Covid. This group has placed a high value on service to people. I was drawn to mercy ministries and being able to help people in our church in a practical, hands on way.

Diaconate Updates

Greetings from the GMR Diaconate! What a year it has been!! I thank God for our

church, our fellowship, our pastors, our staff, our elders, our deacons, and our body. God and his people have been a terrific stabilizing force to lean on during this crazy time of pandemic, isolation, political turmoil, and financial upheaval. It is not over yet but I believe there is now a light at the end of the tunnel. I hope all of you have been staying connected in some way either through the outdoor services, zoom, small groups/flocks or through hanging out with church friends. We are social creatures and aren't meant to go it alone.

If you are not taking advantage of connecting/communicating with your flock advocates and shepherding elders I encourage you to do so. Personal connection in times like these is very important. Along those same lines, there is a new GMR directory coming to help GMR families personally connect with each other. To sign up for the directory, follow the directions written [here](#). Finally, a support group is forming to provide an opportunity for Grace widows to connect with each other and with our deaconesses. If you are interested in participating or want to learn more about this, please contact Fran Li, Kem Van Voorhis, Becky Dotson, or Mary Linville. The diaconate has been very active throughout this season in supporting body

members in need. Please don't hesitate in communicating any support you or your family need. All of the GMR deacons (with contact info) are listed on our website under leadership. Feel free to contact any of us directly. In addition, You can send an email to MercyMinistryGMR@gmail.com to request help or click on the GET HELP button under Mercy Ministry on the GMR website. An abbreviated procedure to provide financial assistance has been implemented throughout this pandemic period. Finally, our prayer team, led by Dave Bokmiller (deacon) is very active and meets every Sunday to pray as a group for all those who request it. Prayer requests can be submitted to PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com.



BECKY DOTSON

Hello, I am Becky Dotson; my husband Woody & I have attended Grace since 2005, when we moved to NC. 10 years in Arden, and Hendersonville residents since 2015. Originally from Florida, Woody & I met in high school band in Cocoa (Space coast) when I was 16, and have been married for 46 years. We have 3 adult sons: Chris, Philip, & Adam. I retired in 2019 from teaching. My fun & interests: reading, especially historical fiction, live music, hiking, gardening & bird watching.

I have loved serving at Grace in Children's ministry, women's ministry, Kairos Prison Ministry, and the diaconate. New- Grace Blue Ridge Homeroom ministry. I love being part of Grace Mills River Church, and greatly appreciate the care, creativity, and dedication of our pastors & leaders toward building up the Body in constantly evolving ways during the pandemic.



BOB GILES

My wife Jansen and I have attended Grace for about 10 years. We have had three sons, Clay (1981-2018), Jake, and Kevin, and five grandsons. Jansen and I have served as greeters at GMR for around five years. I have enjoyed serving as a deacon throughout my adult life at my previous churches, but have only recently been ordained at Grace. I love helping people, and am so thankful to be a member of a church body that is so involved in ministering and serving people in our church, our community, and around the world. I look forward to serving most Saturday mornings with Least of These, a ministry to the homeless population in downtown Asheville. We provide food, clothing, sleeping bags, and loving encouragement to a number of homeless men and women each week. I retired from a career in science about six years ago and currently enjoy being outdoors either working in the yard or hiking in this beautiful area of the country. Jansen and I feel very fortunate to belong to a care group at GMR where we share life with five other couples.

I am very happy and excited to report that our diaconate has grown in membership and continues to grow. This is so awesome for our church! Five new members including Kem Van Voorhis, Fran Li, Brad Greene, Bob Giles, and Paul Shogren have joined the diaconate this year!! All have been very active in serving and meeting the needs of those in our body. In addition we have 3 more members in training including Julie Ledford, Sheryl Mathis, and Matt Balance!!! I am so grateful God blessed us with so many people that are willing to complete leadership training and serve the church and body members in need or distress.

In closing, let's all continue to pray for our church, our pastors, our staff, our nation and each other, that the virus is defeated and unity as One Nation Under God is restored.



God Bless,
Greg Van Voorhis
Moderator GMR Diaconate