



**Knowing Bob Moncrief**  
*by Judy Warner*  
*Vestry Member*

As a new Vestry member I was asked to write an article for the Vestry Voice about something I care for deeply. Based on my love of music, I asked our Music Director, Bob Moncrief, for an interview.

Before coming to us, Bob had an illustrious musical career. He spent 40 years in 3 large churches in 3 different states – NY, Michigan and Ohio. He was involved in planning music for worship for adult choirs, children's choirs, and handbell choirs. At his first church, when he was still in his 20's, he is proud to say that he was responsible for the design and installation of a 50-stop, 68-rank Casavant organ that is to this day considered by many the best organ in the NYC area. He said, "I made an impact that will outlive me."

Bob did his undergrad music work at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. While there, he became a member and was assistant organist at Bruton Parish Church, an Episcopal church founded in 1716. While attending college there, he performed many organ recitals at Bruton Parish.

Yale School of Music is where Bob landed to do his graduate studies in organ and sacred music. He was a member of the first class of Yale Institute of Sacred Music. While at Yale, Bob did private study in organ, conducting, and voice. While at Yale, he conducted the choir at Yale Divinity School and assisted his organ professor at First Presbyterian Church, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, NYC. A fun note! Many of you may know the Rev. Randy Hehr. He and Bob were in the same graduate program while at Yale. What a small world!

Bob became known for his stellar tenor voice. His agent sent him throughout NY to sing solos in oratorios with orchestra. After one performance in Albany, NY, the review stated that he was "the one shining light." One of his most memorable experiences was singing the tenor solos for Handel's *Messiah* in the Troy, NY concert hall. As he sang the Passion section, he looked out and up front and saw a whole row of nuns crying. He was deeply touched to see that he had moved those people.

In his life as an organist, Bob was invited to perform many organ recitals mainly in churches throughout the country including several in NYC, Washington DC, Cleveland, Detroit, New Haven, and Chicago.

Having been with us for 3 years now he reports that he loves living in the Tampa Bay area. He loves our church, the people, the staff and working regularly with our choir. He really likes playing our organ. Bob finds it meaningful that he ended up at Church of the Good Shepherd because the Good Shepherd image was always a very special image to him. He told Becky how much he likes working with her and calls her his "reward" of a boss.

There are many hobbies that are of interest to Bob outside of music. He enjoys gardening, antiques, cooking, travel and going to the beach.

It was my pleasure learning more about our esteemed Music Director. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say: WE ARE TRULY BLESSED BY YOUR TALENTS, Bob! THANK YOU and please keep shining your light among us.





## **Ubuntu \***

*by Mary Ratliff  
Co-Leader of the  
Connect Team*

### **This Month We Welcome Peter Weyant and Renée Jacobs**

#### **How long have you attended services at COGS?**

They have attended for about 6 months.

#### **Are you coming to Good Shepherd as an Episcopalian? What other churches have you attended?**

Peter says that he is an Episcopalian transferring from Church of the Ascension and, prior to that, St. John's in Tampa. Renée is a Roman Catholic planning to be received into the Episcopal church soon.

#### **How did you find Good Shepherd?**

They were seeking a local church after moving to Dunedin from Largo.

#### **What inspired you to attend?**

Peter related that he travels a great deal on business throughout the United States. In every community, he always saw a sign, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You." Finally, in the late 1980s, he says, "OK, God - I get it!" and he was received from the Roman Catholic Church shortly after. Renée says that she has attended church with Peter as part of moving forward in their life together.

#### **What would you want to tell others about Good Shepherd to encourage them to come and explore our parish?**

What a great response! They said that the message here is: "Faith is an action, all are welcome, and focus on the positive."

#### **Please tell us a bit about yourself outside Good Shepherd - family, jobs, hobbies - whatever you like.**

As new residents of Dunedin, Peter and Renée are exploring and enjoying their new community. They are interested both in church activities and community involvement. Renée is a lifelong Florida resident and an MRI Technologist that works for an orthopedic practice on the Morton Plant Hospital campus in Clearwater FL. Peter is a technology sales executive who currently works with large clients mainly in the Midwest. They have a blended family of 6 children in their 20s who are all out on their own working and in college. Peter and Renée moved here with 3 rescue dogs who enjoy Dunedin's dog-friendly community.

