



*Brian Gurl and Liz Aiello —
Toasting Broadway from Mars Hill with
brilliant piano playing and soaring vocals!*

THINK OCTOBER!

Although the calendar and the heat say JULY, let's instead think OCTOBER. Let's think cool temps and the Heritage Festival. Many nice items of good value have already come in for our UB's Silent Auction — thank you so much — but more are needed. Last year we had 110 items for Silent Auction. Currently we have about 45-50. If you haven't found something for the auction, look on page 6 for ideas.

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Come Hear Broadway Favorites Without Traveling to New York City!

A TOAST TO BROADWAY!

Nearby Mars Hill will host a concert mosaic of Broadway favorites. You will have the opportunity to hear popular works of George Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and Andrew Lloyd Weber — to name only a few.

Benefitting the Barns!

Brian Gurl and Liz Aiello will perform this concert to benefit The Appalachian Barn Alliance. Mark your calendars: **Sunday, August 13 at 3:00 pm at Broyhill Chapel in Mars Hill.**

Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 to reserve seats in the first two rows.

This promises to be an afternoon of delightful relaxation in the cool of beautiful Broyhill Chapel. Prepare to be captivated by brilliant piano playing, soaring vocals and delectable duets!

For reservations and tickets either email info@appalachianbarns.org or call 828-380-9146. (All tickets will be held at "Will Call" the day of the concert.) Need more information? See Nancy Larkin or Taylor Barnhill.

Our Turkish Experience

by Ann Smith

Last year on our way to Africa, Michael and I ended up in the Turkish Airways Lounge at Dulles Airport. There we met a young family: Serkan, a 40-something-year-old dad/businessman, his wife, and their two young pre-teen children. They were finishing up a business/family trip to Washington, DC, and headed back to their home in Istanbul, Turkey.

Serkan spoke excellent English; his wife and the kids were more shy about speaking it. We got to know them a little, and later on the plane, Serkan told us to wait for them once inside the Istanbul airport. That sounded great; we had been hoping for the Turkish Airways' tour of Istanbul offered to travelers with more than a six-hour layover, and that was us. Serkan wanted to help us to make this happen.

He walked with us to a Turkish Airways Customer Service desk and spoke to them in Turkish. The airline had finished their tours of Istanbul for the day; we had arrived too late for this service. As we walked out of the airport, Serkan turned to his wife and arranged for a taxi to take her, the children, and their luggage home.

Update from Ann Smith:

"I have not heard from our Turkish friends in several months. Turkey has been suffering distressing civil conflict, and many who are suspected of being traitors to the government have been arrested. Lately businesses owned by those who are suspected of not being patriots have been taken by the government and closed. I sent Serkan an email about this story and have not heard back. Please pray for all of God's children in areas of conflict and persecution."

Then he turned back to his driver, who was there to meet them at the airport, and explained to the driver that he wanted to give us a tour of Istanbul. Michael and I were very surprised by his generosity of time and spirit. We had traveled in Business Class and were able to lie down flat while sleeping on the 17-hour flight. Serkan had traveled in Economy with two children and was surely exhausted. Excited and grateful, and trusting our hearts, we got into the back seat of the car and off we went.

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Photo courtesy of Ann Smith

THIS YEAR'S HERITAGE FESTIVAL

QUILT

Colorful, filled with variety, thirty different squares compose this year's Holy Spirit Church quilt for the Heritage Festival. It's a Sample Quilt which is a common quilt genre. There are twenty-five patterns — some very similar, although called by different names: for example, "Monkey Wrench" and "Churn Dish," and "Lilies and Cross and Crown."

Fabrics are from Libby Woodruff's studio and donations given two years ago in Pat Magnus' name. There are a few squares that have a deep red with gold fleck left over from the quilt we made for Susan Sherard's departure seventeen years ago. There are some small pieces of a patchwork design made from two or three pieces of a fabric because that was the last of the fabric and it was the only way to complete the square.

Everybody Needs A Little Time Off!

When David McNair, our hard-working priest, is on vacation, pastoral concerns should be directed to the church office Mon-Thurs, between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Outside these hours, concerns should be directed to Peggy Barnes. Check the Mountain Spirit calendar for the August dates when David will be away on vacation.

That First Sunday of August

The First Sunday Open Offering recipient for August

is **Neighbors in Need**, an ecumenical Christian ministry providing crisis assistance to residents of Madison County. Its operation is lean: a volunteer staff and donated facilities make possible that at least 99% of all donations go to meet client needs.

David McNair represents Holy Spirit on the Neighbors in Need Board of Directors, and Claire Gillespie and Pam McNally are active volunteers.

Funding comes from gifts, contributions, grants, fund-raising events, and business donations. These gifts provide assistance for fuel during the winter, and year round help for utilities, food, diapers, and cleaning products. (Gardeners: donations of fresh garden produce are welcome during the summer and fall months.)

Please be generous in your giving to assist our Madison County residents who find themselves in need. Donations will be accepted through the month of August when designated to go to Neighbors in Need as well as the August first Sunday offering.

For more information check out the NIN website: <https://neighborsinneedwnc.org/>

Our Turkish Experience

(continued from page 2)

After Serkan helped us get a one-day visa, he and his driver took us through the streets of Istanbul, pointing out various landmarks. He took us to the ancient Bazaar, where I found a sweet little necklace and he negotiated a price for it. Michael found a few baubles for his toddler grandchildren, and Serkan negotiated the price for those. We hadn't traded in any US dollars for Turkish currency, and our new friend paid for them. I asked how much they cost, and with his hand, he waved away my concern.

Next, he took us to a mosque, to see the beauty of it. We saw a cathedral as well. He took us to his favorite candy store and bought us Turkish Delights. Then he had his driver take us to his favorite restaurant. I said that we would like to buy dinner to thank him for all he had done for us. He said, seriously, "I don't think they will take your credit card here."

After dinner, we were driven back to the airport, and Serkan walked us inside and made sure we found our way to the Turkish Airways Lounge, where we said goodbye, and exchanged contact information.

I told our new friend that I was embarrassed by all he had done for us, and that we were not able to repay his generosity.

He answered, "You are strangers in my land. You are guests, here. Would you not do the same for me, in your position, in your country?" I was speechless. In fact, I'm not sure what to put in this space.

The next day Serkan emailed us to see if we had arrived in Johannesburg safely. Ten days later, he asked if we had been affected by the shooting in the Istanbul airport.

We stay in touch. His country is going through very troubled times, but he and his family, so far, are okay. *[Ed. note: See page 2 for Ann's current concern.]*

The fact that Serkan and his family are Muslim, and Michael and I are Christians, doesn't even seem relevant. I have never heard of strangers being offered such selfless generosity in my whole life. We are all brothers and sisters, are we not? I am glad they are Muslim, and I get to tell this story.

Look for God, and you will find God. God lives in all of us.

August Birthdays

John Matthews 1

Samuel Reilly 1

Logan Tuck 2

Brian Hollister 3

Tyler Terry 5

Joanne Cate 6

Barby McQueen 6

Julie Johnson 8

Susan Sewell 12

David Bergland 12

Emily Carlson 13

John Doran 14

Nathan McMahan . 18

Molly Hare 22

Kevin Caskey 22

Ben Smith 25

Lucinda Watkins ... 30

Virginia Gillespie... 31



It's exciting to look ahead to an **unusual heavenly event** that we can enjoy without having to travel too far. For the best eclipse viewing experience, a few hours drive to the south will be necessary.

The August 21 eclipse will last almost three hours in its entirety, although the length of totality is only a few minutes. But that's the big prize.

Totality reveals the true celestial spectacles: the two diamond rings, the Sun's glorious corona, 360 degrees of sunset colors, and stars in the daytime.

And to see the glorious totality, one must see it in its path as close to the centerline as possible. Here in Madison and Buncombe Counties, we will experience it less fully than further south. The eclipse will occur in our area in early afternoon as its full shadow passes south of us.

So where should you go to see the eclipse in its full glory? You can head to Cherokee County and the little town of Andrews, which lies almost directly in the centerline of the eclipse. Or you can travel further south to Greenville, South Carolina, but that city is more likely to be overrun with thousands of eclipse watchers.

The August issue of **Astronomy** magazine has pages of fascinating information and detail about the Solar Eclipse and is well worth its \$6.00 cost.

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Be very careful how you view the eclipse. Do not look at the eclipse through binoculars or a camera lens without using a special solar filter.

"To view the sun directly, use only an approved solar filter. Each [filter] blocks dangerous ultraviolet and infrared radiation while letting through just enough visible light to guard your eyes. . . . If you want to view the eclipse through binoculars or a telescope, place the filter over the front of your optical system. And be sure to keep the lens cap on the finder scope, or remove the finder altogether. Curious people, especially children, are apt to look through the finder without realizing the danger."

Quote from **Astronomy** Magazine, August, 2017.

UB Ideas *(continued from page 1)*

Here are UB auction items which have done well in the past but so far haven't shown up in this year's contributions.

Gift Card Sign Up

A gift card from your favorite local business is an easy way to support both that business and Unique Boutique Silent Auction efforts. Two ways to get gift cards:

1. Ask the vendor for a donation of a gift card for the silent auction. Provide them with a donation form to fill out on the spot (these are available in the back-corner classroom). It's important to tell them who the recipients are this year: the Community Housing Coalition and Villager Initiative both serve Madison County residents.

2. An alternative is that you buy the gift card and place it in the auction (fill out a donation form for your tax records).

Please sign up on the sheet provided on UB table across from the cubby.

This will help minimize too many duplicate cards as well as minimize the number of times a retail vendor might be asked to donate.

Once purchased or donated, give the gift card/donation to one of the UB team members: Mary Jo Sparrow, Carol Van Voorhis, Terry O'Keefe, Pam Stein, Barbara Maloney, or Nancy Larkin. This way the cards won't get lost.

Create a themed gift basket!

Don't have a basket? No problem! Baskets are available in the UB staging room for the taking (back corner classroom). These are fun to put together; just let your imagination run wild. Anyone can do it! Google "gift basket ideas" to see pages upon pages of ideas.

Sign up sheet for the gift cards other items will now be across from the cubby on a UB table.

We are still asking that all items/gift baskets/gift cards be in by September 1. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Peggy Wilson at 713-7596.

Crossroads Antiracism Training — Montreat Conference Center

August 18-20, 2017

This introductory training by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training Event will provide participants with a shared analysis of systemic racism in the United States. Using an action-reflection model, the training will seek to answer three questions:

1. What is the current reality of racism in the US?

2. Why is this *still* our current reality?

3. How can we intervene strategically to disrupt and dismantle racism?

The training will include definitions of key concepts such as racism, prejudice, power, and dominant culture.

Participants will receive capacity-building tools and resources to work for antiracist transformation in their churches and institutions.

For more information, go to <http://www.montreat.org/crossroads/>

Coming in September:

CHRIST AND THE ANIMALS: AN NEW-OLD VISION

**A Three-Month Indepth Study and Reflection
focusing on the relationship of Christianity
and the Animal World**

**September 16, October 21, and November 18
9:00am – 12noon**

**Cost: \$200 per person., due no later than September 9.
Space is limited to ten participants
who should plan to attend all three sessions.**

**Sessions Conducted at Servanthood House
156 E. Chestnut Street, Asheville, NC**

**September 16: The Biblical Witness:
Do We Really Know What We Think We Know?
October 21: The Cosmic Vision, Ancient and Medieval
November 18: Modern Insights: Now More Than Ever**

**Course Presenter
Pamela Hedrick**

Pamela Hedrick has an MA in Religion from Wake Forest and a PhD in Biblical Studies from Baylor University. She is an active advocate for compassion toward all sentient beings. She teaches biblical, spirituality, and pastoral care courses in the online Graduate Theology Programs at St. Joseph's College, Maine and is a Lay Companion of New Skete Monasteries in Cambridge, NY.

For more Information and registration:
Contact Emily Wilmer at emily@oasisofwisdom.net or 828.319.7240

Know anybody who'd be interested in the job below?

PARTTIME CHURCH MUSICIAN

For The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Mars Hill, NC

Position Description: Church Musician works with the Rector and the Parish Administrative Assistant to plan, prepare, and play music and hymns on the piano for the weekly Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. and to schedule, direct and lead the church choir during liturgical seasons when there is a choir (Advent, Christmas, Easter – an estimate of 14 choir rehearsals per year).

Qualifications: The applicant should have skills and experience in playing the piano (we do not have an organ) and be willing and able to play many genres of music. No formal degree required, though preference will be given to applicants with such credentials.

Compensation: \$135.00 per service and for additional services as agreed upon plus \$50 per choir rehearsal (estimate of 14 choir rehearsals per year).

Non-payroll benefits are as follows:

- 1. Vacation:** Two (2) paid Sundays/year
- 2. Sick Leave:** One (1) week/year. If one week is exceeded, the policy will be re-assessed by the Rector.
- 3.** Paid time for continuing education will be considered by the Rector upon request.

4. This is a parttime W-2 staff position and employer will pay half of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

For inquiries or to submit a resume, contact: The Rev. David McNair, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, PO Box 956, Mars Hill NC 28754. Email: priestholyspiritwnc@gmail.com or call #828-689-2517.

The 2017 Women's Retreat at Lake Logan

From Ruth Anderson:

Our topic is ***The Grace in Living:*** "*Grace appears in both sweet and fierce forms . . . sent from beyond to open us to the radiant fullness of being.*"

—Matt Licata

In this retreat we will explore:
Recognizing Grace in Our Lives;
Trusting that Grace; and
Abiding in it.

Through engaging spiritual practices; reflecting on our pilgrimage thus far; and embracing the messiness of our lives, we will create a sacred space where we recognize the grace that is and always has been our own essential being.