

Meet the New Vestry Candidates!

Debra Alexander

(nominee for 3-year term on Vestry)

Lorraine Hilty

(nominee for 3-year term on Vestry)

Mary Maupin

(nominee for 3-year term on Vestry)

Jim Woodruff

(nominee for two-year term as Jr. Warden)

Learn more about these people on pages 2-4.

Early Release for Jack

Jack Angel was looking forward to his release from prison scheduled for mid-April. But his release came sooner. Jack died suddenly on the afternoon of January 24 while working at the prison clinic.

Jack had been eager to write an article for **Mountain Spirit** to thank the people of ECHS for all their support and love. He gave his handwritten article to David McNair this past Sunday (Jan. 20) to pass on to the editor. You can read Jack's message to us on page 8.

Rocky Mountain High

A Report from Lin Von Dreele

Before Pete and I left God's country in November, I chatted with the editor about an article for February's **Mountain Spirit**. And so Pete and I send along this report about our adjustment to our new life in the wild west Rocky Mountain environs.

Getting to Colorado

Many of you traveled the road with us, following our deliberations about whether to move close to one of our daughters in Northern Colorado. What seemed to be a quick decision on our part was indeed just the opposite. For well over a year we spent hundreds of hours debating, vacillating, and conversing with our family. It boiled down to these two questions:

- 1) How can we leave the beloved community that has given us purpose, pleasure, contentment, challenges, and great joy?
- 2) Given that we are aging, should we make preemptive choices while we are in good health?

In the end, we felt it necessary to focus on the latter question.

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Meet the Candidates!

Debra Alexander

(nominee for 3-year term on Vestry)

Debra was raised in Asheville, graduating from Enka High School. She grew up in Grace Baptist Church where her parents were very involved. Debra herself was active in Sunday school, Training Union, children's choir, youth group and the youth choir. Every Sunday her family drove to Hendersonville to visit her grandparents. Debra loved singing and would serenade her family during the drive until her dad would finally say, "I love to hear you sing, but let's listen to the silence for a while."

After high school Debra married, gave birth to Jason in 1974 and Timothy in 1977. The family moved to Madison County in 1979. While attending church and singing in the choir at Marshall First Baptist, Debra felt called to pursue a music career. She began Mars Hill College in 1983, graduating in 1991 with a degree in music and a minor in religion. She was the Minister of Music and Education from 1983-1990. When Debra became discouraged with the revised Baptist Beliefs, she began looking for another church and found Holy Spirit in 1992 and joined the choir.

Debra and Kent Self grew up at Grace Baptist Church and dated in high school, then went their separate ways. After forty years they reunited and now live together in Mars Hill. Debra believes that Kent is a godsend! Debra's two sons have blessed her with three grandchildren and Kent's daughter with two, so together they have five grandchildren.

Debra loves sun therapy, being at the beach, walking, pulling weeds, and tending to her serenity flower garden. She has been employed at Mars Hill University twenty-three years in Campus Ministry and will retire May 31.

Lorraine Hilty

(nominee for 3-year term on Vestry)

Lorraine was born and raised in Black Mountain. During her childhood and young adult years she attended a local Baptist church and was baptized at the age of ten. There she taught Sunday and Bible school. She attended Owen High School, but was unable graduate with her class after the birth of her first son. In 2009 she fulfilled her goal of returning to school to receive her diploma. She is a mother of four and grandmother of four.

In 2000 Lorraine and Amanda had a commitment ceremony, and moved to Weaverville in 2001. Her grandmother lived down the road, and Lorraine took her fishing and cared for her until her passing in 2009. In the fall of 2009 she and Amanda moved to Marshall. Lorraine has worked at Beacon Manufacturing, as a manger at Olan Mills, and also in various aspects of the restaurant industry. In 2011 she began cooking at Zuma. Here she met many wonderful people. It was during a local event that year when she heard about the Campaign for Southern Equality and decided it was time to get involved. Over the next few years she and Amanda participated in civil actions with the "We Do" campaign, a movement to call for marriage equality for LBGTQ people. The CSE held an ice cream social at Good Stuff, where Lorraine and Amanda first met David McNair.

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Lorraine Hilty (continued)

When the time came to find a church home, they came to ECHS for a visit knowing they would be welcomed. That visit turned into their being confirmed in the fall of 2018. Lorraine feels grateful and blessed to have found this special and welcoming community at ECHS which accepts her for who she is. She is honored and looks forward to the opportunity to serve as a vestry member. In addition to fishing, Lorraine enjoys traveling, history, baking and is an avid reader.

Mary Maupin

(nominee for three-year term on Vestry)

Mary was born in Chattanooga where she lived with her mother and grandparents while her father was serving in WWII. After he returned home, the family settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she grew up. Mary graduated from Hollins College with a degree in art. After working for a year at the Cincinnati Art Museum, she joined the Peace Corps and spent over two years in Liberia, a pivotal experience. Returning to the States in 1969, she worked at a social service agency in Boston. In 1972, she entered grad school in social work at University of Michigan.

On her thirtieth birthday Mary met her future husband, Gary Brumo, who was finishing a master's degree. After grad school she worked in a mental health clinic near Ann Arbor and married Gary in 1974. Aaron was born in 1977. In 1978 they moved to a small farm in Madison County, where they built their house. Abel was born in 1979.

Mary spent her time taking care of her two sons, gardening, painting, and volunteering for activities her sons were involved in. In 1986 she began work as a mental health therapist at Blue Ridge Center (a public mental health center) in Madison County.

Mary worked at the Blue Ridge Health Center until it was privatized in 2003. She then worked at St. Joe's hospital, and after that as Director of Counseling at Mars Hill (then) College. She retired from MHC after four years, in 2010. Though painting off and on during her work years, after retirement she was able to paint pretty much full time. She shows at New Morning Gallery in Asheville—though she has no paintings there currently. Mary and Gary have two grandchildren, ages 5 and 1, living in A'ville.

Mary was raised in an Episcopal church but attended a Friends' Meeting in Asheville for ten years (her maternal grandparents were Quaker). She began attending ECHS in the mid-90's and has previously served on the Vestry. Mary describes her spiritual beliefs as "in progress". She believes that giving God a "him/her/it" name greatly limits the significance of the Creator.

VESTRY CANDIDATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 WITH JIM WOODRUFF.

***EAT SOME GOOD MEXICAN
FOOD ON VALENTINE'S DAY :
FIND IT AT THE MARS HILL
BAPTIST CHURCH
12 NOON-2:00PM***

This is a fundraiser by La Esperanza for helping families in need.

Jim Woodruff

(nominee for two-year term as Jr. Warden)

Jim was born in Columbus, Georgia. He lived in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, for several years. His four years at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, were an eye-opening experience. Landscape Architecture and Journalism were his studies at the University of Georgia, followed by a few years living in Denver and central Florida.

In 1973 Jim moved to his new home and land in Marshall where he met Libby, who had already come to Madison County. They married in 1975 and had three children: Jennifer, Logan, and Anna. Over the years, they raised sheep, planted yearly vegetable gardens, grew Burley tobacco a few years, and expanded their small mountain home to keep up with the growing family.

Neighbors in Need and Madison County Habitat for Humanity have been special volunteer activities for Jim. He also worked at Larry and Genevieve's Mars Hill Hardware and Lumber. Jim served on Vestry in the early years of Church of the Holy Spirit.

Sadly, Libby passed away in February 2015. After two years of moving forward from Libby's passing, a lovely woman walked into Jim's life. Carol Evans is a long-time resident of north Mars Hill. Says Jim: "Thank you, Pam and Ed, for introducing us." Jim and Carol are engaged to be married.

Jim enjoys hiking, traveling, visiting family, and working with the land. He has three grandsons and is joyful that they live close by. He is thankful for all the blessings of his forty-six years in the mountains ... and looks forward to even more.

Prison Ministry Appeal — 3 Men Needed!

HOLY SPIRIT'S PRISON MINISTRY HAS COME TO AN END *UNLESS*

at least three men step up to be sponsors. As many as six male sponsors at one time have been active in our parish for almost two decades. But now we are left with only two, both up in years and unable to continue this ministry on their own.

The likelihood of someone returning to prison is considerably less if he is released through a faith-based reentry program such as ours. Our ministry at Holy Spirit has been a positive experience for everyone involved. *(See Jack Angel's article on page 8 in which he testified to the value of the program for his life.)*

One helpful feature about this ministry for men who work during the week is that most of the activity happens on Sundays, so volunteering won't be a burden to men with full-time jobs.

Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor should contact Bob Cumbie or Bob Magnus.

The Inward Journey of Faith

A new opportunity for seeking spiritual growth together

Learn more about this opportunity after church February 10. Also check out secondbreathcenter.com.

We are called to respond to the needs of a hurting world. Second Breath courses and faculty members guide you on a transformational journey to doing just that. We believe there is no great outer work without great inner work. That's why our programs are not only based on a nuanced, fresh expression of Christian spirituality, but also include a toolbox of practices for moving from knowledge to lived experience. We teach you how to move in the direction of your heart's longing and cultivate the courage and wisdom to pursue it.

—Second Breath

After decades of helping people discover a new awareness of God's presence and calling in their lives, the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro recently went through its own rediscovery process — and emerged as Second Breath. The mission is the same: to open our hearts to God's love and calling in an increasingly challenging world.

What's new is the desire to expand the ministry by developing an online presence, making courses and resources available to groups and individuals wherever they live.

As a way of learning how best to offer online courses, Second Breath is looking for congregations who will experiment with the new format and give feedback on their experience. The commitment involved in being a pilot congregation includes having a group of people who will agree to take the introductory eight-session course — **The Inward Journey of Faith** — using the videos and facilitator guide provided by Second Breath. If you are interested in participating, or if you want to learn more, we'll be meeting after church Sunday, Feb. 10, to talk about the possibility.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please study the Second Breath website (<https://secondbreathcenter.com>) to get a good sense of the purpose and content of the course. If you want to hear more about the content of the course, speak with Adam or Jennifer Reda, who took the first course onsite in Greensboro last year. If you have questions about the pilot, speak with Susan Sherard, who taught at the School for several years.



"BREATHE IN AND OUT? WHAT OTHER WAY IS THERE?"

Black Jesus Book Group Second Gathering February 20, 7:00–8:30pm

THE BLACK JESUS BOOK GROUP

will again gather for discussion Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. If you want to visit and chat before the meeting begins, get tea or coffee and come at 6:30pm.

We'll begin the discussion promptly at 7:00, continuing with Michael Eric Dyson's book, ***Tears We Cannot Stop, A Sermon to White America***. If you weren't able to participate in the first session, come anyway and join the discussion. In preparation for this session, each person is invited to note an idea or story or quote from Dyson's book which taught you something new or increased your awareness about what it's like to be an African American in this country. Our discussion will center on these examples in the spirit of Dyson's challenge to white people. We are to educate ourselves about our African-American sisters' and brothers' experience in our culture.

February Birthdays

Helen Clark	3
Joan Henry*.....	3
Ed Caskey.....	8
Kathryn Graeter.....	8
Dillon Wyatt.....	8
Robin Hare.....	10
Katy Singhas	10
Bobbie Pell	11
Dora Hare.....	13
Robertjohn Gillespie....	15
Dick Jordan.....	17
Carolyn Ogburn.....	20
Lucas Yeakley.....	20
Jack Poisson.....	21
Lynn Michie.....	22
Zeke Loomis	26
Ronnie Jordan	27
Vivienne McCullough...	28

*Joan Henry is Annette Henry's sister-in-law.

MOUNTAIN SPIRIT is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Mars Hill, NC, a parish belonging to the Diocese of Western North Carolina. For more information about the church, visit our website: www.holyspiritwnc.org

Editor: Lorrie Cooper

Dear Holy Spirit Parents and Youth

A Message from Jenna Sharrits

Now that the New Year is here, let's talk about our youth program. Holy Spirit Church has joined with four other Episcopal Churches in the Asheville area to create one big, vibrant youth program. It has been a huge success, bringing a renewed level of enthusiasm to the youth program!

For 2019 we will continue this energetic youth program. I have planned a larger and more fun-filled event for all the youth each month in the coming year. This will allow Holy Spirit youth to participate with the larger community. I will be sending out a postcard listing those dates, along with posters showing the monthly event in which ECHS youth can join with the Asheville Episcopal Youth Ministry. Hope this results in more participation from Holy Spirit youth!

Please also note the new WEEKLY Sunday School time after Eucharist on Sunday mornings. On the added Sundays, Justin Reilly and Cristi Johnson will be leading us in exploring the idea of STORY — looking at stories from the Bible and how they overlap with our own stories.

If you have any questions, please email me at jenna@wncyouth.org

May blessing be in your path,
Jenna Sharrits
*Youth Missioner for the
Asheville Episcopal Youth Ministry*

SO FAR IN 2019:

The Diocesan youth program organized an Epiphany Bonfire at Camp Rockmont in Black Mountain. About fifty youth came for games, s'mores, hot chocolate, and burning of the Christmas trees. Twenty-eight youth attended from my five churches. We are hoping to continue the excitement and energy into 2019.

February has fun in store for the youth:

FEBRUARY 3 - 2:00-5:00PM at Smoky Mountain Sk8way in Waynesville; a Diocesan Youth 90's Themed Skate Party! We will be taking the church van to Waynesville for the skate party. Let Jenna know to save a seat on the bus if you will be joining her!

FEBRUARY 10 - 1:00-3:00PM at St. James Black Mountain; Self Portraits Craft! We will be doing some really cool self portraits from fabric while we talk about what it means to be made in God's image

FEBRUARY 17 - 1:00-3:00PM at St. Mary's; Black History Month. We will be talking about the book and now a movie, ***The Hate U Give***.

FEBRUARY 24 - 1:00-3:00PM at St. John's; Volunteering. We will be putting together bags for the homeless. The bags will include items like socks, soap, toothbrush, and granola bars. Please help by bringing an item requested from you by Jenna.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM JACK ANGEL

As time draws nearer to my parole date in April, I want to reflect on my time at ECHS. I must say that making the move to attend ECHS was not an easy one for me. At that time, I had been incarcerated for twenty-one years and definitely was institutionalized. But with a lot of insistence from Rob Sanders, I finally gave in and gave it a try.

Looking back to that time, coming to ECHS was one of the best decisions I ever made. Since that first pass to Holy Spirit Church, much has changed in many ways for me.

The Prison Ministry Program had a huge impact on the way life was for me at that time. All the sponsors have been very helpful in helping me adjust to life outside prison. Every sponsor has taken the time to make sure I got as many passes as possible. That has been very helpful.

But the difference without doubt goes to all you great people in the congregation. From the beginning I have been shown much love and support. I consider everyone a friend I am very grateful to have.

Now with only three months to go until parole, those very same people are doing all they can to make sure things are as easy as possible for me to reenter society.

Thank you all so much for everything and know I love you all.

—Jack Angel



VALENTINE'S DAY – FEB. 14

Show some love:

- Toss your dog a fresh bone
- Give your cat a catnip treat
- Speak soothingly to your household plants while watering them
- Put some chocolate in the mailbox for your mail delivery person
- Send a Valentine's Day card to your second cousin
- Smile at the grocery store checkout clerk
- Hug the editor of the church newsletter

Rocky Mountain High

(continued from page 1)

Returning in mid-September from Colorado where we had found a comfortable place to live, the wheels began to turn. To our relief, Ginny, reliable friend and realtor, was immediately on the case to sell 3 Valley Trace; downsizing was easier than anticipated; and our sons-in-law were a tag team assuring our car got to Colorado via Chicago.

The heartbreak came from saying goodbye to all our friends, coworkers, and spiritual travelers, culminating in the loving sendoff at Holy Spirit on the Sunday prior to our leaving. The Holy Spirit brigade and other friends were in motion up to the last minute of our leaving November 14. We are so grateful for everyone's pitching in, naming only a few: Millie Massey and Lynda Miller supervised the van loading when the last day moving glitch occurred and we had to leave. DeeDee and Brad Dawson got us to the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport to fly to Denver with George and Lizzie, our furry buddies who really earned their flying wings. Upon landing, family took over, settling us into our new digs with a bed and other essentials four days before the van arrived.

Now We're Here

Windsor is an old agricultural town just east of Ft. Collins along Interstate I – 25. We have a glimpse of the mountains at the edge of our garage and enjoy a more expansive view when we head toward Ft. Collins for major shopping and church.

Our new digs are in a senior complex that ranges from complete independent living, like our patio home, up to assisted living. The exterior is "new modern" architecture, far from what we consider "acceptable." The interior, however, works well for us, although we have less square footage than we had at Hamburg Crossing. After downsizing once again, we've jammed in our treasures and memories.

Finding a spiritual home has been a priority. Holy Spirit sets the bar pretty high, yet we feel we've found a parish containing God-seekers with whom we can grow.

St. Paul's sold its church several years ago and now worships at Trinity Lutheran Church. A spin-off from the Roman Catholic Church, Mary of Magdala Congregation also worships there. (The latter has married priests; we'll find out more about that later.)

On Feb. 17 there will be a unified service of all three congregations. We've found this construct very interesting, and we've enjoyed good conversations at coffee hour with the St. Paul's folks. Adventures lie ahead. Other adventures include participation at a wonderful recreational center just a few blocks from us. Most mornings, we are up and out by 7:30am for Pete's lap swimming and my fitness activities. The center also has local trips, our first being a recent excursion to Denver for the Indian Market (eat your heart out, Genevieve!) In March we'll take three more Denver trips, which we feel is a good way to acclimate to the region with good folks . . . and someone else does the driving. *(continued on page 10)*

Rocky Mountain High

(continued from page 9)

Incredible joy comes from being near Anna, Mick, and Sydney, who are less than ten minutes from us. Sydney is our oldest granddaughter and recently graduated from Montana State this past December. Family dinner gatherings are frequent, either there or here.

Impromptu knocks at the door are enormously welcome as Anna's work brings her to Windsor on a regular basis. Then there is Anna's invitation for breakfast on my birthday, something that couldn't occur hundreds of miles away.

So, This Is Where We Landed

God put us here for some reason. The obvious is in the present; the rest is unknown.

I find myself back in our Southern mountains with images . . . people, events, a moment, a thing: Jack's birdhouse, the mockingbird singing outside the sunroom, a stretch of the Parkway, giggles at book club, Amanda's chicken salad lunch at Zuma, sharing the Peace. In an instant I'm singing revised John Denver's lyrics: "*North Carolina, mountain mama, take me home country road . . . to the place where I belong . . . North Carolina . . . country road.*"

See, you can't take the mountains out of the girl.



Pete snapped a shot of their condo's great room. High windows give a view of those famous blue Colorado skies. Their cat George can be spotted sitting on the edge of the sofa.