

Mountain Spirit

JULY 2017

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

"A Welcoming, Loving Christian Community Committed
To Serving God, One Another And Our Neighbors"



UNIQUE BOUTIQUE IS OFF AND RUNNING!

This year's Heritage Festival in Mars Hill will happen Saturday, October 7. For a second time in this annual event, we will hold **two silent auctions** at the Unique Boutique.

Money raised from the auctions, along with proceeds from fabulous Holy Spirit food booth and quilt raffle, will be split between the Community Housing Coalition and Villager Initiative. With your generous help, we can make a difference for the many people and kids these two worthy causes serve.

Since you are wondering how you can help, here are two ways. First, donate auction items for the UB with a value of \$25 or higher. Last year we had 103 items. Donation ideas will be listed at the end of the article. Get those items to the church by September 1, allowing us time to catalog and prep for the auctions.

In addition to donating your items, we also need help with tasks! We need people to help load the truck before the sale, as well as help with unloading and setting up the day of the Heritage Festival. And we'll need people to man the checkout table. Then afterwards to help break it all down.

In September sign up sheets go into the church cubbie so you can indicate which tasks you'd like to take on.

So for now, get cracking! Bring stuff for the UB! Most items will be stored at Holy Spirit in the left side classroom down the hall. Larger items will go to Peggy Wilson's basement. Pick up contribution sheets. Fill them out for your records and then tape a copy to whatever items you drop off.

Don't hesitate to call Peggy with your questions: 713-7596. Other UB committee members are Terry O'Keefe, Carol Van-Voorhis, Nancy Larkin, Mary Jo Sparrow, and Barbara Moloney.

Auction ideas (but don't feel limited to the following suggestions):

Gift Card. This could be for anything: a restaurant, a service, Starbucks coffee, a concert or theatrical play.

Theme Gift Basket. Pack a nice basket with items around a theme or interest. Examples: dog lover, spa, family fun, wine lovers, winter preparation, car care, kids, golf lovers, campers, and hobbies of all types.

Antique or Collectible Item.

A Skill Class. (as an example, last year we had wreath-making classes on auction).

Does the Rain in
Spain Stay Mainly
In the Plain?

See
Pages 2
and 4.

WILD
GOOSE
FESTIVAL

Get to the
Goose!
Details on
page 5.

Walking the Camino: The Road to the Cathedral

By Ann Smith

There are many routes in northwestern Spain, southern France, or Portugal to reach the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. Located in northwestern Spain in the province of Galicia, this church honors St. James the Apostle.

The name of all these routes is *El Camino de Santiago*, or "The Way of St. James." In the earliest times, pilgrims walked with only the clothes they wore, provisions, sometimes with a donkey or on a horse, but usually they went on foot. They stopped to eat when they could, and slept when they found a welcoming spot. They sometimes walked as penance, but more often they walked with an "intention," to bring it to St. James; to crawl on their knees to his statue and embrace it, and deliver the prayer to the Lord through him. Pilgrims wanted to experience a blessing.

The journey could be 500 miles, depending on where one starts. Walking at least 100km is required for the trip to be worthy of a certification stamp from the officials in Santiago.

Modern-day pilgrims walk the Way for a variety of reasons. In early June, I walked 113km of it (a little over 70 miles) with Paul, my 27-year-old son who lives in Nevada, and Lucie, my 25-year-old daughter who lives in Brooklyn. We wanted a family trip, and we wanted to push ourselves to do something physical that none of us had ever even considered before. We wanted something different, without distractions from tv or radio or internet connections. And we wanted to be outside.

Moreover, I was hoping for some kind of spiritual experience, whatever that might mean. I wanted to be open to the possibility that God would speak and that I would be available to listen.

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Some of the contrasting sights along the Camino: a farmer herds his cows on one side of the road; on the other, a woman checks her cell phone.

Photo courtesy of Ann Smith.

The Long Lull of Ordinary Time

by David McNair

According to the church's liturgical calendar, the weeks after the Day of Pentecost are called "ordinary time." Lent is long gone. We have moved through the 50 days of Easter. With no fasts or primary feast days between Pentecost and All Saints Day, we've entered the long lull of ordinary time.

School is out for the summer, our Wolf Laurel snowbirds have returned to enjoy our amazing cool mountain air, the mountains are lush green with growth and the wildflowers are dazzling us with their intricate and radiant blooms. George Gershwin is playing our song again, *Summertime and the Living is Easy*.

But is there any such thing as ordinary for Christians? In fact, all time, all places all creatures are sacred. In his poem *How To Be a Poet*, Wendell Berry says, "There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places." The same is true of time — there's no such thing as ordinary time, regardless of the church calendar. The poet Mary Oliver's *Today* is a beautiful poem about all time being extraordinary:

*Today I'm flying low and I'm
not saying a word
I'm letting all the voodooos of ambition
sleep.
The world goes on as it must,
the bees in the garden rumbling a little,
the fish leaping, the gnats getting eaten.
And so forth.
But I'm taking the day off.
Quiet as a feather.
I hardly move though really I'm traveling a
terrific distance.
Stillness.
One of the doors into the temple.*

And, of course, it's not just time and places that are sacred; people are too. C.S. Lewis wrote, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit — immortal horrors or everlasting splendors." (C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*.)

Celtic traditions speak of "thin places." These are places where the sacred and the profane intersect; times when the spiritual permeates the material. In "thin places" we experience God's extraordinary presence in our ordinary lives.

The liturgical color of ordinary time is green. It is a time for us to grow in our faith and in our discipleship with Christ. It is a time for us to learn that all time, all places, all people and all creation are holy. In God's world there is no ordinary, there is only extraordinary. "Each thought, each action in the sunlight of awareness becomes sacred." (Thich Nhat Hanh, *Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life*.)

Walking the Camino

(continued from page 2)

Late May or early June is usually a nice time to walk in northwestern Spain. And so it was for us: 50 degrees at night and up to 73 during the day, under partly cloudy skies. It rained on us only once for about five minutes. We arranged lodging at each town where we planned to stop after walking for six and no more than eight hours. A company picked up our suitcases and drove them to the next town for us. It all went smoothly.

Pilgrims don't walk the Camino for great food or fancy lodging. We did stay in some lovely, comfortable inns and private homes, however; and I admit it was fun anticipating and wondering what our next accommodation would be like. A good night's sleep was important and appreciated. The walking was usually fairly gentle – through eucalyptus groves, meadows, on cobblestone streets, and sharing paths with cows. *(See photo on page 2.)*

Pilgrim's food was, in our experience, part of "our suffering as pilgrims," as Paul often said, tongue-in-cheek. We did not like a lot of what was served at roadside cafés in rural areas, but it was fun to try new things and laugh while complaining about it!

I am still processing what walking The Way meant for me. I will be delivering a sermon about our experiences on The Way of St James towards the end of July — fittingly at the time of the Feast of St James. I hope you will be there to hear about it.

But I will tell you now that while I was hoping to hear God's voice along the way, all I heard was the voices of my grown-up children. Need I say more?



Anne Smith and her grown-up children, walking the Camino. (Photo courtesy of Anne Smith.)

Our Annual Reminder:

Weekly Spirit and *Mountain Spirit* are separate publications, each with its own editor. Items for *Weekly Spirit* should be directed to Martie Carson, ECHS office administrator, at office@holyspiritwnc.org and sent no later than Tuesday for publication in that week's letter.

Items meant for the monthly newsletter, *Mountain Spirit*, should be directed to Lorrie Cooper at lorriec773@gmail.com. Deadlines for *Mountain Spirit* submission are always indicated on the calendar. Items which need to appear in both publications should be emailed to both email addresses.

Editor's Note: Ann Smith will be preaching Sunday, July 30, with more details about walking the Camino with her grown-up children. She will also answer the question of whether the rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

What IS the Wild Goose Festival? And Why Should You Talk to John Graeter?

"At Wild Goose, people flock together to celebrate a way of life rooted in faith, justice, creativity, and beauty. It's like a family reunion where you meet relatives you never knew you had. It's a wild and wonderful convergence of stimulating conversations, campfires, music, kids, art, lawn chairs, prayer, fun, dance, Frisbees, tents, food, sunshine, rain, laughter, and fresh air. There's nothing like it, and I look forward to it as one of the best weeks of my year." —Brian McLaren

Once again the Festival is encouraging local folks and Holy Spirit members to attend by providing passes for a discounted donation.

Contact John Graeter if you are interested in a pass or further information.

John's email is jgraeter@frontier.com and phone is 828-337-7257.

Of particular note:

Rev. William Barber - 8:30 a.m. Friday on the Main Stage.

Nadia Bolz-Weber - at 11:00 a.m. Friday with Doug Pagitt and Michael Waters for a round table discussion on the Main Stage.

And the Sunday closing speaker:

Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus – Lawyer, poet, author, and executive director of the Network social justice group – Sister Simone is a "holy troublemaker" – or as she proudly claims, "stomach acid in the body of Christ."

To learn way more about the Wild Goose Festival, go to their website: <http://wildgoosefestival.org/>

The Wild Goose Festival begins Thursday, July 12, at 5:00p.m. and ends Sunday, July 15, at noon. As always, it will be held at the Hot Springs Campground.



Sister Simone, the "Holy Troublemaker" will be the closing speaker at the Wild Goose Festival.
(Photo courtesy of the Wild Goose Festival website.)

First Sunday's Offering for July

Cuba Episcopal Church: Fieles a Jesus

The First Sunday offering recipient for July is our sister church *Fieles a Jesus* (Followers of Jesus) Episcopal Church in Matanzas, Cuba, located about a two-hour drive northeast of Havana.

Fieles a Jesus is the oldest Protestant Church in Cuba. Its membership is 25-50 people, and the church itself serves as a community center, place of hospitality, and one of the neighborhood's only source of fresh water. That water is from its well which our church helped finance.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit has visited *Fieles a Jesus* twice, first in 2013 and again in 2014. Their priest Tulia Sanchez and her spouse Osmani Roca visited us and Western NC last summer for three weeks. It was the first time Tulia and Osmani had traveled outside of Cuba.

Most Cubans earn between \$20-\$25 a month and thus live extremely simply, surviving on very little by American standards. In spite of this, Cubans are a marvelously generous and joyful people!

Over the past several years *Fieles a Jesus* has been reconstructing a dilapidated building adjacent to the church, turning it into guest rooms for visitors (like us) who come to Cuba for church-related visits.

This ministry of hospitality helps finance the church ministries, which includes providing meals for the elderly and disabled in their community.

(Our thanks to Martie Carson for sending this information.)

July Birthdays

David McNair.....	1
Kristi Smith.....	3
Sarah Smith	3
Irene Libretto	3
Marnie Wilson	6
Sarah Tucker	6
Maggie Kilpatrick..	11
The Rev. Jim Dannels	12
Grey Terry.....	13
Morgen Yeakley....	16
Zacharia Hollister .	19
Loretta Link	19
Tess Schneider.....	19
Gavin Hooker	21
Fred Burnham.....	21
Cole Loomis	21
Kaye Butler.....	23
Amanda Govaere ..	23
Darrell Schneider ..	24
Hannah Small.....	26
Claire Gillespie.....	26
Peyton Terry.....	31

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

Our thanks to Peggy Wilson for the UB article on page 1.

CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE

On Sunday, July 30, Church of the Holy Spirit will be providing lunch for about 150 homeless people. We are doing this through our outreach ministry with Church of the Advocate, housed at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Asheville.

A grant from Thrivent Financial for Christians allows us to purchase a main course and salad, but more will be needed: cookies, brownies, rolls, and tea or lemonade.

A signup sheet will be in the cubby for people to sign, indicating their choice of the needed items. Contact Pam Stein with questions.



SPLASH DAY FOR THE YOUTH!

Please consider joining us at Camp Ridgecrest for a Splash day on Sunday, August 20th!

Carpooling might be available, so don't let your busy schedule prevent our great youth from joining in the fun!

Place: Camp Ridgecrest

Cost: \$10.00

Time: 11:00am - 4:30pm

What to bring: bathing suit, towel and sun screen if desired. Boys should bring drinks and girls bring chips!

Schedule:

9:30am depart CHS (tentative)

11:00am Holy Eucharist

12 noon Lunch!

Then swim and play the rest of the day

4:45pm depart to leave for CHS (tentative)

Please contact me, John Zeller, at darktombcreations@gmail.com or sign up in the cubby at church so we can make reservations.

Pentecost

Our 2017 celebration was very well attended and enjoyable, overlooking the French Broad River .

As always, good food at the picnic, and most important — the rain held off!



Thanks go to Jim Woodruff for these colorful photos.

And our thanks to Sam and Ann Shiver for making it possible to celebrate in this beautiful location from the cliffs of the French Broad Crossing.

Get Excited About Our September Women's Retreat!

(DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP! IF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, CONTACT DAVID MCNAIR.)