



**For ECHS Folks**

## **Exciting News!**

### **A New Deacon!**

**— Coming to us August 11 —**



**The Goose Returns!  
Details on page 3.**

**Honoring a special person who passed from us. Details on page 7.**

**by David McNair**

**"I'm calling to let you know that your prayer has been answered!"**

said the voice on the other end of the line. The voice belonged to Bishop José, and out of the blue, he called me several weeks ago to report on a deacon he wanted to assign to Church of the Holy Spirit. After Michael Ashmore had concluded his diaconal internship with us, I had over the years kept mentioning to both Bishop Taylor and Bishop José that having a deacon assigned to us would be a gift.

And so Bishop José and I talked about the Reverend Deacon Tyler — "Ty" Jones — coming to ECHS to be our deacon. Ty has visited us several times in the past few weeks, and we've discussed our vision and hopes for ministry. Both of us came away from these conversations feeling excited.

We strongly sensed that the Holy Spirit is creating a new partnership, one brimming with possibility for new and renewed ministry and mission together with Ty when he joins our congregation as deacon. *(continued on page 3)*

## **Halleluia!**

**Let's celebrate a birthday!  
Details on page 4.**

## Villager Initiative Committee

**Community Room — Tuesday, July 2 — 2:00-4:00 pm**

All ECHS members interested in outreach programs for at-risk children in Madison county are invited, indeed encouraged, to attend! The committee is engaged in a discernment process of past, present, and future projects that best address the needs of foster, homeless, and children at risk in terms of having basic needs met, to include food, clothing, school supplies — even Christmas gifts — that will allow them to thrive at home, school, and in society.

The committee is in the process of interviewing leaders in key community social service organizations in order to identify such needs, and how ECHS can best serve them.

We need your help in this discernment process as well as in the projects we undertake to serve the children of Madison County. Please feel free to contact Pam Stein with any questions or concerns you have about this ministry.

***WOMEN OF ECHS*** are invited to gather together Saturday morning, July 13, 10:30am, at Nancy Larkin's home for a mid-summer morning brunch. (*Directions to Nancy's home are on page 4.*)

Bring a breakfast dish to share and a piece of nature that speaks to you. Nancy will have an egg casserole and juice. The rest is up to you. Please let her know if you can attend. This is our summer Women's Group Gathering. The next time we meet together will be at the September Women's Retreat.

Those who plan to attend are asked to reflect on this quote by Vijali Hamilton. He is world-renowned sculptor, performer and author who has done much work on Global Peace Projects:

***If there is any wisdom running through my life now, in my walking on this earth, it came from listening in the Great Silence to the stones, trees, space, the wild animals, to the pulse of all life as my heartbeat.***

*See page 4 for directions to Nancy's home.*

## ***BENEDICT AND THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST: A BENEDICTINE DAY RETREAT***

**Friday, July 12: 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Calvary Episcopal Church, Fletcher**

A celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict and exploration of his teaching in light of present-day insights of science, medicine, theology and psychology. How to "listen with the ear of our hearts" to God while surrounded by the advertising, political rhetoric,

and fear-mongering of a world departed from the way of Christ? Search for wisdom in the ancient writings of St. Benedict and interpret it for God's world today. There will be both silence and discussion, along with group Lectio Divina and a closing Eucharist. Please bring your lunch. Beverages will be provided. Cost \$5. To register, call the church at 684-6266.

## A New Deacon!

*(continued from page 1)*

Another answered prayer is connected to this story, related to the ministry of Bob Magnus, who has gifted ECHS with his service in the role of deacon for many years. Bob has been steadfast, faithful and, yes, a ceaseless fount of "puniness" and good humor. **SOB** (Sweet Old Bob as he is affectionately known) is truly dear to us all, and although he's been a card-carrying AARP member since the 1990's, he possesses a lively and youthful spirit that defies age. Bob says he's now ready to retire from the deacon role and move back into the pew. And so the timing is right with this convergence of answered prayers. (We will celebrate and thank Bob later this summer.)

### **A little about Rev. Deacon Tyler Jones:**

"Ty" was born and raised on a large farm near Franklin, Pennsylvania, in the western foothills of the Appalachians. He is a middle child in a devout Roman Catholic family of three boys and a girl. He met his future wife, Carol Jablonski, in high school.

Ty's degrees are from Catholic schools (BA in history, John Carroll University; and MBA, Gannon University).

Ty and Carol were received into the Episcopal Church in 2000 in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. They attended Virginia Seminary from 2003 to 2006, where Ty earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies.

Ty was one of the first three permanent deacons ordained at Washington National Cathedral. These past three years he's been a deacon at All Souls' Cathedral in Asheville.

Carol is a former college professor (UVA, Charlottesville, Virginia; IU, Bloomington, Indiana; USF, Tampa, Florida) who has been serving recently as an interim priest at parishes in the diocese.

Since leaving their Florida home to attend seminary, they have moved six times and been associated with congregations in the dioceses of Southwest Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington, DC. They retired from their Maryland home to Asheville in 2016.

## **WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL**

The 2019 Wild Goose Festival begins Thursday, July 11, at 5:00pm and ends Sunday, July 14, at noon. As always, it will be held at the Hot Springs Campground. To View the list of incredible speakers and see the schedule, go to the website:

<http://wildgoosefestival.org/>

## ***DIRECTIONS TO NANCY LARKIN'S HOME***

DON'T try to follow GPS! Nancy's address is listed as Weaverville, but her home is located in Beech Glen.

### **Directions from downtown Mars Hill:**

Starting on South Main Street with the Post Office on your left, drive 1 ½ miles on South Main, and cross the Interstate. The second road after the Interstate is Beech Glen. (It's about 200 yards past the Interstate overpass)

Next find 34 Whitt Branch Road, which is 1 ½ miles down Beech Glen. Pass a covered bridge, go around several curves and then come to a road that veers off to the right. But it is a hard right and a bit of a blind turn, so be careful turning. Nancy's drive is immediately to the right. Her house has a red tin roof and is newly constructed.

Look for the house across the street from her, which is 1474 Beech Glen Road. It's on the left immediately before Nancy's house on the right.

## ***A Halleluia! EVENING***

Susan Sherard is celebrating her 70th birthday by issuing an open invitation to Holy Spirit folks to join with her out-of-town family and friends for a summer supper and concert at the church. ***This will take place Tuesday, July 30, from 6:00 to 9:00pm.***

Performers will be Joe Penland (Madison County ballad singer), Jenne Sluder (Asheville songwriter and singer), and Ben Brafford (Greensboro music director and pianist).

***If you'd like to attend, please let Tom know by July 7,*** so that enough food and space can be prepared for everyone. Be sure to sign up on the sheet in the cubby area, or email Tom at [freeneasy3@gmail.com](mailto:freeneasy3@gmail.com).

Please, no gifts or cards! Consider a donation to the Housing Coalition of Madison County. A basket will be available that evening for contributions.

## ***AUGUST 1***

***BLACK JESUS BOOK GROUP  
DISCUSSION: 6:00 PM***

***When They Call You a Terrorist:  
A Black Lives Matter Memoir  
by Patrisse Khan-Cullors***

## Community Housing Coalition (CHC):

***IMPROVING HOUSING . . . ONE HOME AT A TIME***

### First Sunday Offering in July

The Community Housing Coalition of Madison County (CHC) came into existence in 2000-2001, when an ad hoc coalition of community organizations lamented about the fragmentation of resources supporting the housing needs of low-income residents in the county. Many were (and remain) land poor, surviving on Social Security or Disability Assistance; 43% of the housing stock is either mobile or stick-built homes built prior to 1940.

Because no independent organization existed to address this need, CHC was incorporated in 2002 and received 501(c)(3) status in 2003. Since then, CHC has continued to evolve while remaining true to its mission of serving very low-income elderly, disabled, or single parents. Initially it depended on summer mission groups from North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and other states. Faith-based teams traveled into Madison County to repair leaky roofs, replace broken doors and windows, or build handicap ramps to ensure mobility. . . and all this was FREE to the homeowner.

Then five years ago, a new program for assistance was launched. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program (NHN) is a "giving back" approach. While summer groups remain essential, NHN taps clients who have been served and local organizations, churches, and individuals to volunteer year round.

Once a month on a Saturday, these teams address the same needs, improving housing . . . one home at a time.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit has had a major role in developing and implementing the NHN program. Our own June Trevor researched and launched the program.

Stephanie McCullough now oversees NHN. She is always looking for volunteers and can be reached by email at [volunteercoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org).

Holy Spirit Church has been a strong supporter of CHC over the years, donating through the Outreach Committee and by volunteering. Larry Burda, Jennifer Woodruff, Jennifer Reda, Susan Sherard, and Lin Von Dreele have all served on the Board of Directors.

Currently on the CHC Board of Directors is Tim Malone, Chair; Steve Honeycutt, Treasurer; Graeme Frelick, Secretary; Betty Hurst, Member; Josh Copus, Member; Vicky Sealock, Member. If you'd like to learn more about the work that CHC is doing in our community, or if you might be interested in serving on CHC's Board of Directors, feel free to contact our office 828.649.1200 or have a conversation with Stephanie after church. Thanks so much for your continued support!

*(This article first appeared in the April, 2017, issue of Mountain Spirit and has been updated by Stephanie McCullough.)*

## Get Excited About Our September Women's Retreat!

**SEPTEMBER  
13-15  
(FRIDAY  
THROUGH  
SUNDAY)**

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

## July Birthdays

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| David McNair..... 1    | Zachariah Hollister 19   |
| Kristi Smith..... 3    | Loretta Link ..... 19    |
| Sarah Smith ..... 3    | Tess Schneider..... 19   |
| Marnie Wilson ..... 6  | Gavin Hooker ..... 21    |
| Sarah Tucker ..... 6   | Cole Loomis ..... 21     |
| Maggie Kilpatrick.. 11 | Kaye Butler..... 23      |
| Jim Dannals ..... 12   | Amanda Govaere .. 23     |
| Terry Grey ..... 13    | Darrell Schneider .. 24  |
| Susan Singleton ... 13 | Hannah Small..... 26     |
| Morgen Yeakley... 16   | Claire Gillespie..... 26 |

### Our Annual Reminder about the two Spirits:

*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](mailto:office@holyspiritwnc.org) and sent no later than Tuesday for publication in that week's letter.

**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](http://www.holyspiritwnc.org)  
Editor: Lorrie Cooper

Items for the monthly newsletter, *Mountain Spirit*, should be directed to Lorrie Cooper at [lorriec773@gmail.com](mailto:lorriec773@gmail.com). Deadlines for *Mountain Spirit* submission are always indicated on the calendar for the current month. Items which need to appear in both the weekly and monthly publications should be emailed to both email addresses.

## Celebrating Kathryn

**Saturday, July 20, 2:00pm at Holy Spirit Church**

Our friend, wife, mother, and community leader has passed on from this world. Kathryn Wehrle Graeter was born in 1949 and took ease from her battle with cancer on Sunday, June 16, 2019 at age 70. Kathryn brought life, love, spark, and commitment to everything she did and everyone she knew. She was passionate about gardening, farm animals, quilting, horseback riding, spending time with family and friends, traveling, and cooking. She will be missed by all.

Kathryn was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts and later in her childhood moved to Utica, New York. In her post-college years she lived in the Washington, DC, area during the formative early '70's in which she met John. In 1975 Kathryn and John moved to Madison County in Western North Carolina where they thrived in the local community. Kathryn will be lovingly remembered by her devoted husband of 43 years, John, their three children, Amanda (Shannon), Gabrielle (Eric), and Jesse (Ellie), and her beloved granddaughter Aniela.

Kathryn raised a family and worked outside the home as a paralegal, program director, and preschool teacher. In 1997 she cofounded Mountin' Hopes therapeutic horseback riding center in Mars Hill, NC. This nonprofit provided therapy and recreation for children and adults with disabilities. She helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase a farm and build specialized facilities so Mountin' Hopes could serve our community.



In 2000, after twenty years of living on their farm in Walnut, Kathryn and John moved to Hot Springs. They became active members of the Friends of Hot Springs Library, recently leading the fundraising to purchase and equip a new library. This spring Kathryn received the NC Governor's Award for Volunteer Service for her work with the library.

Kathryn's family extend their appreciation to the many friends and community members who have provided support over the past year, as well as the caring staff at Cancer Center of WNC, CarePartners Hospice/Solace Center.

The service in Celebration of Kathryn's Life will be held Saturday, July 20, at 2:00pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

All are welcome, reception following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of Hot Springs Library, PO Box 175, Hot Springs NC, 28743  
Condolences can be made to the family at [www.ashevilleareaalternative.com](http://www.ashevilleareaalternative.com)

(The above article is a slightly shortened version of the official obituary distributed to local news.)