

Women! Something to Look Forward to!

**The Women's Retreat of 2018 will
happen in September at Lake Logan**

**Starting Friday, September 9, ending
Sunday morning, September 11.
Two-nights stay.**

Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, get
out your calendar and circle those dates.

Better yet, go ahead and sign up in the cubby!

Villager Initiative

**First Sunday
Offering!**

See page 2.

More Helpful Folks Needed!

Church Caring Crew *See page 4.*

Meals On Wheels

See page 6.



On Being a Sanctuary

***An article by David McNair
See page 3.***



See page 6.

Villager Initiative

Villager Initiative (VI) is the First Sunday offering recipient for June.

As the largest Outreach ministry for Church of the Holy Spirit, Villager Initiative projects serve the needs of Madison County's foster and homeless children, with committee members working with the county's Department of Social Services to identify these children at risk.

Four projects serve as an ongoing basis for Villager Initiative annually:

BACK PACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

In August, we get the names of approximately 30 students in grades K-12 from DSS who are in need of back packs and supplies. Using money in our account to purchase grade appropriate packs, we attach a list of the needed supplies to each and have parish members select one to fill with the supplies and return them to church so we can deliver them to the children before school begins.

SHOES

In early fall we purchase 30 \$50 gift certificates from Shoe Carnival, which offers an additional 20% discount when shoes are purchased, and take them to DSS to be given to the children's guardian so that they may buy a good quality school shoe.

WINTER COATS

In mid autumn we get the gender and size of coats needed by thirty children and purchase these coats, either online, or in stores, and take them to DSS to be given to the children before cold weather sets in.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

This is our favorite and most interactive project for the congregation, and for the past several years we have taken 40 children identified by DSS who would have no presents under the tree without us! We try to get the Angels, along with an indication of their sizes and some wishes from Santa, by Thanksgiving so those who select the Angels from our tree can shop the sales. Unwrapped gifts are then brought to the church by mid December so that they can be taken to DSS in time to be placed under children's trees in time for Santa. **Our members are so generous on fulfilling our Angels' wishes, it sometimes takes 3 or 4 SUV's and trucks to deliver the gifts!**

While these are our main projects, for the past couple of years we have also worked with First Baptist Church in Operation Santa to provide food for children in need during the Christmas holidays, as well as other needs throughout the year that Madison county children in need may have.

* * * ECCHS First Wednesday Potluck * * *

Join us on Wednesday, June 6, 6:00pm at the Wolf Laurel Pavilion for a new summer format. Our gathering that evening will feature Mark Holland playing a 20-to-30 minute set of traditional Appalachian and country music. This will be followed by Celtic Evening Prayer and a potluck meal.

David McNair On Sanctuary

The song “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary” is a favorite of many.

We typically sing it using singular pronouns, but because we are corporate Body of Christ, I prefer the plural pronouns. The lyrics are these:

*Lord, prepare us to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true
with thanksgiving, we'll be a living
sanctuary for you.*

This song is a prayer stating our hope and desire that we will be a sanctuary for God— a temple in our bodies and in our world where the Living God may dwell. Imagine how the world and we would look and be if we were a sanctuary for God!

Essentially, this is our mission and ministry as Christians and as the Church. Many from our church and from the broader community have become part of the Western North Carolina Sanctuary Movement that is working to manifest this prayer that we might, in our flesh and bones and in our community life and institutions, become a sanctuary where God lives.

The stated mission of the Western North Carolina Sanctuary Movement is this:

“We are an interconnected group of Latinx folks, community leaders, faith leaders, and over five hundred allied community members that have come together to build an intersectional sanctuary network in Western NC so that all affected people from the Latinx, African-American, Muslim, and LGBTQ communities and others experiencing poverty and/or oppression can be safe and supported.”

Our church is involved in two significant efforts to be and become sanctuary. The first happened last Thursday. *Mujeres Unidas en Fe (Women United in Faith)* held a luncheon for all the Madison County law enforcement officers and our sheriff, James “Buddy” Harwood. This is the second such luncheon in recent months. It is worth noting that this luncheon happened only 3-4 weeks after ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raids in Buncombe and Hendersonville Counties resulted in twenty-six undocumented Hispanics being arrested and detained. Before the luncheon some of the women involved in *Mujeres* said they were wary and fearful of such of gathering with law enforcement officers yet they believed that the luncheon would help build community and trust between Latinos and those working in law enforcement. They also simply wanted to show hospitality and gratitude to those who work to protect and care for our community.

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TAI CHI CLASS happens at 5:00pm every Wednesday afternoon, led by Mark Holland. Anyone may attend and no prior experience is necessary. There's no charge for participation. **There will be NO 5:00 Tai Chi class the First Wednesday of June.**

Church Caring Crew Shout Out for New Members!

Founded in the mid-'90s, the ECHS Church Caring Crew assumes the responsibility for seeing that church members with temporary needs arising from unforeseen circumstances receive help from other parishioners.

Most often the initiating circumstance is injury or illness, and the response may include preparing and delivering meals, furnishing transportation, running errands, visitation, companionship – that sort of thing. Healthy communities love and care for their own, and in the process become yet healthier.

Often the response comes spontaneously from folks who become aware of the need and simply provide and sometimes orchestrate it. In such cases the CCC is not involved at all, although we would like to be advised at some point.

Sometimes the response is from the members of the CCC itself, and in other cases the CCC may contact various parishioners to furnish the help, organizing and overseeing the response. As they say, it all depends.

The Bluff Mountain Festival is on **Saturday, June 9**, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The festival takes place each year on the second Saturday in June at the Hot Springs Spa and Resort. **All Acoustic!** Old Time/Bluegrass Ballads. World-Class Clogging. Silent Auction, Cash Raffle, Food Vendors & Art Market. Family Friendly and Free! No Pets Please. For more information: madisoncountyarts.com.

The Rector is a member of the CCC, which has no further organizational structure other than having a Coordinator. In our March 7 meeting Roger Hartner took over as coordinator from Ronnie and me. We continue as members, along with Frances Knisley and Nancy Whitaker.

This is the smallest CCC we've had, and we would definitely welcome new members. A larger Crew would enhance our ability to be aware of needs and of folks willing to help. Every quarter of the year the CCC has a mere forty-five-minute meeting at 5:00 pm on four First Wednesdays.

So...if you would like to join, please tell one of us. Or, if the ministry appeals to you but you'd rather not be a member, tell one of us so we'll know of your interest. And of course, if you ever have a need please tell one of us. We will keep this confidential.

—Dick Jordan

June Birthdays

Debra Alexander.. 1	Logan Woodruff . 18
Jennifer Reda..... 3	Mark Tucker..... 20
Nicole Willis 4	Christi Johnson .. 21
Roger Hartner 5	Sandy West..... 21
Alex Sewell 5	Ron West 24
Danny Wyatt 7	Rebecca Sharp... 25
Peggy Barnes 9	Jeremy Fox..... 27
Owen McDonald . 10	Sara Lutton..... 27
O.C. Edwards 15	Terri Wilson..... 27
David Sharp..... 15	Ed McNally 30
Jo Ray..... 17	

Sanctuary

(continued from page 3)

The serving table at the luncheon was overflowing with delectable traditional Mexican and American dishes and the fellowship between the approximately fifty people who attended was friendly, warm, and generous. One particular moment captured a glimpse of the answer to the prayer that we might be a living sanctuary. Towards the end of the meal Sheriff Buddy Harwood stood and expressed his appreciation to *Mujeres Unidas en Fe*. He acknowledged the many contributions that Hispanics make to our community life and economy and he said he would do all in his power to protect and defend everyone living in Madison County, including undocumented Hispanics.

With perfect timing and wry humor, one of the Latina women stood and asked, "Does this mean if you pull over one of us Hispanics for speeding and we pull out our cell phone and show you a photograph of you eating one of the *empanadas* we made, that you won't arrest us?"

We all laughed, but the deep poignancy of that moment was not lost on any of us.

It's telling that the derivation of word *empanadas* is "with bread" and it is akin to our English word *empathy*. Sharing bread and fellowship with one another reminds us that we are all children of God and deserving of one another's kindness and compassion.

The second event aimed at building sanctuary is set for June 5 at our church. Our ECHS Sanctuary Team is hosting a luncheon for faith leaders and clergypersons in Madison, Avery and North Buncombe counties. Women from *Mujeres Unidas en Fe* will prepare a luncheon of traditional Mexican food, and we will spend time discussing and brainstorming ways that we may join together to strengthen our bonds of faith and friendship with one another, our churches, and our Latino neighbors. You are welcome to attend if you are interested. (Please contact Martie Carson to make a reservation).

At the luncheon we will feast on *empanadas*, sing "Lord, Prepare us to be a sanctuary!" and, most definitely, we will be on the lookout for how God answers our prayers!

Community Appalachian River Dance happens **Tuesday, June 5** from **7:00 pm to 10:00 pm** featuring Circles, Squares, Contra dances, Waltz and more ... at the Marshall High Studios on the Island in Marshall. \$5 (\$5 per couple with High School or College ID). All dances are taught and all are welcome. For more information: Go to www.card.org or call Gary at 828-649-9452.



Lunch with an Angel

Thank you to all who have provided lunch and shared fellowship with Jack Angel on Sundays after church.

There is a new sign up sheet in the cubby to take us through the end of the year. We ask you to provide a simple lunch (or as elaborate as you'd like) for Jack and his sponsor, as well as yourself and anyone else you'd like to invite.

Look for the bright yellow sign-up sheet. Thanks!

—Lynn Michie

June Reminders

June 3 — **Outing for Youth** (grades 6-12) to Swoletown Fitness in Hendersonville, 12:30pm. Contact Morgen Yeakley for more details.

June 5 — **12:30 Luncheon** for Faith Leaders and Clergy to discern strengthening ties to Hispanic neighbors.

June 6 — **ECCHS First Wednesday Music, Potluck and Evening Prayer** at Wolf Laurel Lodge. Guest musician: Mark Holland. (Because of Mark's visit to Wolf Laurel there will be no 5:00 Tai Chi class that day.)

See the Calendar page for more information about June activities.

In case you skipped Page 1, the ECCHS Women's Retreat will happen in September at Lake Logan. You know you want to come. And we want you there. Sign up at the cubby.

Needed: "Meals on Wheels" Volunteers

Mars Hill Meals on Wheels has an immediate need for at least four new volunteers to bring lunches to homebound folks. At present Holy Spirit provides several volunteers - Bob Magnus, Martie Carson, Mike Ray, and Dick Jordan. Two or more Holy Spirit folks would be gratefully welcomed to this rewarding and joyful ministry.

The recipients are always glad and grateful for the meal and especially for the human contact.

The program runs four days per week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Volunteers may sign up for one day each week or one or more days per month.

Not counting one's driving time from home to Mars Hill Baptist Church, the deliveries take from forty-five minutes up to an hour and a half.

Time is of the essence! Until the new volunteers are found, newly enrolled recipients cannot be served. If you have questions, talk with one of us or call program manager Lorraine at 828-230-7829.

Pentecost Afterglow



Photos on this page courtesy of Susan Sewell



What an amazing setting for celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit!

Cristi Johnson, Justin Reilly,
and Samuel

