

Pentecost on the Cliffs

**A Cliffhanger
you definitely won't want to miss!**

*See page 3 for all the details:
driving instructions, what to bring
and not bring, what to expect,
and more . .*

**Feeling Hungry?
Time to put on
the Feedbag for
Supper Clubs!**

*See page 6 to get
the details.*

**Did You Know
That All Are Welcome
to Attend
Vestry Meetings?**

**Come get an up close and personal view
of what happens in a Vestry meeting.**

Share in the delicious snacks!

Laugh at the amazing wit and humor!

**You will even be allowed to add your
own wit and make comments!**

**One thing is for sure: you will come
away realizing that the Vestry works
very hard at making those decisions
which affect ECHS life.**

(June Meeting is Tuesday the 18th.)

**A Holy Mystery Novel?
A Holy Science Fiction Novel?
Would those be books
you'd like to read?**

*See page 5 for reading
suggestions.*

**Learn How to
Connect**
*with our
Latino/Hispanic
neighbors: See page 6*

**What's Not
to Love?**

*See page 7 for Nick
Larson's sermon on Jesus'
final commandment to his
disciples.*

**Women! Something
to Look Forward to!**

See page 4.

Villager Initiative

June's First Sunday Offering Recipient

IT'S THE LARGEST OUTREACH MINISTRY OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

VI projects serve the needs of Madison County's foster and homeless children. Committee members work with Madison County's Department of Social Services to identify these children at risk.

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

1-BACKPACKS & 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.

2-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.

3-WINTER COATS

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

4-CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Our favorite and most interactive project for the congregation!

For the past several years we have taken on forty children identified by DSS who would have no presents under the tree without us! We try to acquire the Angels by Thanksgiving so those who select the Angels from our tree can shop the sales. We make sure to have indications of their sizes along with some wishes they've expressed to Santa.

Unwrapped gifts are then brought to the church by mid-December so they can be taken to DSS in time to be placed under children's trees for holiday enjoyment.

In past years our members have been so generous in fulfilling our Angels' wishes that it has sometimes taken three or four SUV's and trucks to deliver the gifts!

While these four are our main projects, for several years we have also worked with First Baptist Church in Operation Santa to provide food for needy children during the Christmas holidays. And we've also worked with First Baptist meeting other needs throughout the year that Madison County children in need might have.

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Our ECHS Cliffhanger

June 9 is a special day for the Church of the Holy Spirit. Not only does Pentecost commemorate the birth of Christianity, but it is our ECHS Patronal Festival.

Again we will celebrate Pentecost at the Lodge at the French Broad Crossing. This location overlooks the French Broad River with a breathtaking view of the mountains.

The service will begin at 10:30am, followed by the traditional potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share — but there's no need to bring plates or cutlery. Those items will be provided. By the way, **there will be NO grilled hot dogs or hamburgers.**

Bring a folding lawn chair to sit on, but don't be tempted to bring your beloved doggie. No dogs are permitted in the lodge area when the swimming pool is in use. By the way, it's a beautiful pool and you should plan to use it!

If you've attended in previous years, you will remember that the lodge is beautiful and comfortable, with clean, modern restrooms and a fabulous well-appointed kitchen. Spacious rooms with comfortable chairs are arranged so one can look out large windows at the gorgeous view.

The Lodge and its immediate surroundings, including the parking lot, are level and flat, with paved walking areas.

Directions to French Broad Crossing . . .

From the Marshall Ingles, head north toward Hot Springs on 25/70. In 6.5 miles look for **Cow Mountain Road** on the left. Driving time to Cow Mountain Road from Ingles is about 20 minutes.

If one is headed south on 25/70, in the direction of Weaverville, Cow Mountain Road (on right) is approximately 200 yards beyond the Hopewell Baptist Church, which will be on the left side of the road.

Look for the colorful balloon attached to the street sign for Cow Mountain Road. Proceed up the hill, veer to the left at the top of the hill and follow the signs to the lodge (approximately 2 miles).

Make Carpooling Plans! In previous years, people met at the Ingles gas pumps on the bypass near Marshall. Or you can meet at the Middle School parking lot. This helps to consolidate us into fewer cars for the parking area at the French Broad Crossing Lodge. We encourage you to make carpooling plans with your buddies.

Sign Up Sheet For The Picnic Is in the Cubby at Church! Be sure to sign up so we know you are coming, and indicate what you plan to bring to share at the potluck.

And don't forget about that lovely swimming pool! Bring your suits and towels.

WOMEN!

What about a lovely fall weekend at Lake Logan with your BFF's from ECHS? September 13-15 is the annual ECHS Women's Retreat. Sign up in the cubby. Program details are yet to come, but one happy feature of the weekend is this: Coming all the way from Colorado to join us is Lin Von Dreele!

June Birthdays

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

Villager Initiative Needs a New Chair ...

On June 1, 2019, Pam Stein will step down after six years of chairing the Villager Initiative committee. This, the biggest outreach initiative at Holy Spirit, is now seeking a new chairperson. Pam has offered to "train" a new chair on the fundamentals involved in this position.

Pam emphasizes that the joy of providing for the needs of children at Christmas with Operation Santa greatly exceeds the responsibility!

Project leaders Donna Turnbaugh, Genevieve Burda, Deb Carlson, Mary Jo Sparrow, and Nancy Larkin compose the **DREAM TEAM** that has made possible all of these services to children at risk!

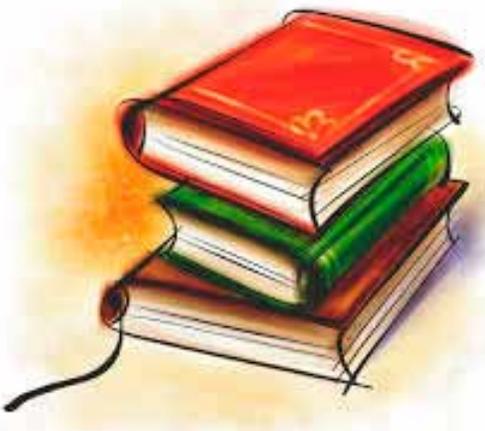
While Pam will be out of town much of the holiday season, she will continue to work with the team when she can, and she is happy to consult with anyone willing to step up to this rewarding challenge.

Safeguarding God's Children ...

If you spend time with our youth or children you need the Safeguarding God's Children training which was developed by the Episcopal church.

Esther Moriarty will lead the class after church on June 23. It's a two-to-three-hour class and would benefit any parent or grandparent. Please sign up in the cubby.

Books! Books!



O.C. Edwards' Holy Mystery was published in 2013, but it is a novel he wrote nearly forty years ago and then put to one side before deciding to publish it. **Runagates in Scarceness** is a murder mystery set at a fictional Episcopal seminary in rural Indiana during the time of the Viet Nam war. The main character is an Episcopal canon who teaches at the seminary and eventually solves the mystery of a murder in the sanctuary. An inexpensive Kindle edition of O.C.'s novel is now available from Amazon.com for you to read on your mobile phone (or tablet or laptop). Or look for the print edition in the ECHS library.

From Joyce Hollyday

One of the great blessings of my life has been working with extraordinary people to help them share their stories. Most recently I walked alongside my friend Tamara Puffer, a Presbyterian pastor who was a volunteer at the Open Door Community in Atlanta when she sustained a serious brain injury in a car accident in 1996. Helping her birth her memoir, **Forgetting the Former Things: Brain Injury's Invitation to Vulnerability and Faith**, was both a privilege and a challenge. After the accident, Tamara found her ministry among marginalized persons transformed as she came to accept her dramatically changed life, embrace her own marginalization, and see the Gospel as good news in a way that she had never imagined. Recently published by Wipf & Stock, her book is a rare tapestry of first-person faith journey woven with gritty theological reflection and persistent hope.

Here's the link to Tamara Puffer's book:

<https://wipfandstock.com/forgetting-the-former-things.html>

But what if you would like to read Holy Science Fiction?

David A. Cooper has written a novel set in a fictional future when time travel is possible, and the survival of the human race depends on sending a team of scientists into the past to obtain vital technical information from Jesus Christ.

The Strong Force is not only the title of this novel but is an actual physical force at the subatomic level. This novel is available on Amazon.com in the inexpensive Kindle version or as a printed book.

(If the name seems familiar, David Cooper is the brother of the Mountain Spirit editor.)

The Black Jesus Book Club is taking a break and won't meet in June or July. Next gathering: Thursday, Aug. 1, at 6:30pm to discuss *When They Call You a Terrorist, A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele.

Supper Club

Time to put that feedback on!

Along with our many other activities, those of us who attend The Church of the Holy Spirit like to eat (imagine that!). What better way to indulge that pastime and participate in the vibrant life of our church than to enjoy a meal, along with some new or "old" friends? Traditionally, one of the best ways to get to know each other better has been the Supper Club. Groups of 6-8 people gather together for a shared meal, taking turns hosting and providing the main dish. Others in the group bring side dishes, dessert, and/or appetizers to round it out.

The next round will take place from June - December this year. Groups will have six months to hold approximately four meetings. Once formed, your group can work together to find the best meeting days and times. A sign up sheet will be in the cubbie to set up the new groups this year - please sign up if you have any interest, even if you've participated in the past - we're starting a new list this year as we have lots of new folks.

You may have questions. Here are some frequent queries and their answers:

"I'm single, will I have to host all by myself?"

No, not if you don't want to. Most singles are "paired" with another single so they can share the hosting and cooking (one may host while the other brings the main dish, for example).

"I don't drive at night, can I still participate?"

Yes! Several groups meet in the daytime for lunch instead of dinner. If you have any issues around mobility, please work with your group, everyone is usually very accommodating.

"My house is too small for me to host such a large group, what do I do when it's my turn?"

Not a problem. Groups in the past have met at parks, restaurants, or other venues.

"I'm very busy, can I still participate?"

Yes — that's why you have up to six months to have your gatherings, as it's sometimes hard to coordinate everyone's schedule. We also hope that you'll have so much fun that this will be something to look forward to and plan for.

—Lynda Miller

Have questions? Contact either Lynda or Carol VanVoorhis.

New Camino

Learning how to connect with our Latino/Hispanic neighbors: this is an Episcopal program for clergy, vestry, and lay leaders happening Friday, June 21, 5:00pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville.

Details are available on the diocesan website where you may also register if you plan to attend.

Nick's Sermon

Nick Larson preached the sermon on Youth Sunday, May 19. Here is that sermon, slightly condensed in order to fit on one page.

Easter is the longest holiday celebrated in the church. David McNair pointed out to me that maybe we need all this time in order to ponder the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and the mystery of his resurrection.

At the Last Supper, after Judas had left, Jesus proclaimed, *"Where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another."* Here is why this may be the most important lesson to take from the gospel: these are the final words of Jesus to his disciples. It's as if he were trying to summarize everything he taught into one final phrase: *"love one another."*

So what does it mean to really love one another? Simple words, but easier said than done. Unfortunately, love has become a cliché. You hear the word 'love' many times a day. I hear it frequently used as an exaggeration: for instance, "I love this wall color," or "I love that outfit." Or maybe "bye, love you" simply becomes the way you wrap up a phone call, and you accidentally tell your plumber that you love him.

To quote David Lose, a pastor and author, on his interpretation of the love Jesus is talking about: *"love means putting the good of the other first, even when it hurts."* To love one another in this way sounds very challenging. I don't think we're all expected to love with the intensity that Jesus did: however, no act of love is 'little.' and we must be grateful for the love we receive and make an ever more conscious effort to love one another as best we can.

I think of times when love was all around, and I simply needed to recognize and acknowledge its presence. Love is in the everyday things, like seeing my little sister's face light up when I get her from the bus, or in the beauty of the clear, starry night sky. Love also comes in big packages such as a mother's love.

From my personal life another example of love was the pilgrimage to Cuba. Our church motivated and encouraged me to go along, both existentially and financially. That was my first — and only time since then — opportunity to experience a culture different from my own. Knowing the lengths others went to in order for me to have that experience was quite the eye-opener to love coming from my church family. And then the community connection I felt in Cuba was extremely powerful — not only with my church family, but also with the people we met. I felt as welcome there as I do here when I walk through the doors of our church.

And from David Lose's quote again, *"love means putting the good of the other first, even when it hurts,"* I conclude that true, self-sacrificing love is a choice, and it takes work. Perhaps even more important than Jesus' final commandment to love one another was his final ACT of love, a literal self-sacrifice to demonstrate his love for the world. The ACTS OF LOVE are what keep us whole. And David McNair brought to my attention this quote which encapsulates the whole message. St. Teresa of Avila stated:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses all people now.