

## Greet the Bishop!

**Thurs. Nov. 16, 11:30am – 1:30pm**

Come out and greet Bishop José when he makes a stop at the Church of the Holy Spirit as part of his 2017 Bishop Road Tour. Bishop José has been visiting all the parishes in the diocese in his first year as our bishop. Now he's coming to Holy Spirit Church to get to know us better.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, he will be meeting with our Women's Latina Group (*Mujeres Unidas en Fe/Women United in Faith*) at 11:30 am. Then he will lead noon prayers in the Sanctuary, using both English and Spanish. The noon prayers will be followed by a potluck Fiesta!

Please come out and join the festivities (bringing, we hope, a potluck dish to share) and help us welcome Bishop José!



## Day of the Dead

**NOVEMBER'S FIRST  
WEDNESDAY**

**ALL SAINTS DAY  
(DIA DE LOS MUERTES)**

Service with  
Rev. Hilario Cisneros  
Celebrating  
6:00pm – Potluck dinner  
afterwards!

The women from our Latina group will be constructing an "offrenda" in our sanctuary. All are invited to add photos of deceased loved ones and bring favorite foods of those deceased loved ones to the potluck which will follow the service.

**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 at: [www.holyspiritwnc.org](http://www.holyspiritwnc.org)

Editor: Lorrie Cooper

## Early Morning

by David McNair

In the Low country of South Carolina, there is an old Gullah term for early morning: *dayclean* (dey-kleen) as in "Child, hurry up and get to bed because *dayclean's* coming."

The point is that every new day is "clean"—a blank slate, a fresh start, a forgiveness granted that is our deepest truth and reality. It is ours to know and to experience anew like our waking up to a new day or our inhaling of our next breath.

Too often, in our disbelief, we assume that we are stuck with ingrained patterns of thinking and behaving that are destructive to ourselves and to others, and so we resolve ourselves to this being our lot in life.

But to think we are stuck is life apart from God, and my friends, God is alive and God is in us and with us — and so, as surely as dawn breaks upon every night, God is doing a new thing and is creating us anew each day. The Psalmist says it this way:

*"God's mercies are new every morning."*

We are never intractably stuck; we are never unchangeable; we are never without hope. Child, don't worry, don't give up, don't despair, *dayclean* is here!

The poem *Cold Rain the Day Before Spring* by Stuart Kestenbaum speaks beautifully of the *dayclean* that is always ours:

## ***COLD RAIN THE DAY BEFORE SPRING***

by Stuart Kestenbaum

*From heaven it falls on the gray pitted ice  
that has been here since December.*

*In the gutter rivulets erode piles  
of dirt and road salt into small countries  
and the morning is so dark, in school*

*teachers turn on fluorescent lights  
and everyone comes in smelling of  
damp wool.*

*From heaven it falls, just the opposite  
of prayer, which I send up  
at the traffic light: please*

*let me begin over again, one  
more time over again, wipe the slate  
clean, the same way after school  
janitors, keys jangling from  
belt loops, will use a wet rag and wipe*

*the school day off, so there is only  
the residue, faint white on the smooth  
surface. It's the same way  
the infield looks before the game  
begins, or the ice on a rink*

*between periods. All new again  
for the moment and glistening.  
Imagine each day you get to start  
again and again. Again. How many  
days does the janitor enter the room*

*of your soul, wipe it clean  
go out into the hallway  
and push his broom  
down the long corridor, full  
of doors to so many rooms.*

## First Sunday Offering The Church of the Advocate

by John Keller

**CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE** — this oh-so-important Diocesan mission — will receive ECHS's first Sunday offering in November to benefit its outreach programs, programs such as an onsite mental health program in which COA has teamed up with All Souls Cathedral in providing onsite counseling service free of charge to those who are in need. This program benefits not only the at-risk community COA directly serves, but also its "Good Works" program.

The Good Works program helps both men and women involved in a mental health program and in the process of obtaining permanent housing, or may already have housing. Good Works provides a hands-on approach to obtaining or refining their job skills. The program also provides a current work history for use in their future job search quest. Additionally, this program benefits other nonprofit and for-profit organizations such as the Lake Logan Episcopal Center, Care Partners Foundation Estate Sales and Thrift Store, and Habitat for Humanity!

Church of the Advocate provides an Episcopal-based Sunday worship service in Trinity Episcopal Church at 1:30pm. The doors open at 12:00 noon for a time of quiet reflection. In addition to music, there is a spiritual activity prior to worship such as collage making and coloring. Refreshments are also available. The worship service contains hymn singing, prayers, and a shared communion. Typically, an average of 100 to 150 people attend this service.

Immediately following the service, volunteers serve Sunday lunch, prepared with food provided by MANNA Foodbank. Everyone is welcome to the meal, a truly community event.

Both before and after the service the Nurse's station is open, staffed by a parish nurse. It provides treatment for minor ailments and dispenses foot care products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste feminine hygiene products, etc. People can also check out the Sole Mates ministry. The Sole Mates closet helps COA parishioners get back on their feet with a fresh pair of kicks! The homeless who live on the streets find it difficult to obtain good usable shoes. Church of the Advocate meets this need through its Sole Mates closet filled with gently used (and sometimes brand new) athletic shoes and boots, along with new tube socks.

Please consider giving generously to Church of the Advocate, the only diocesan mission in WNC and serving a huge population. Your kindness is what keeps COA going because there are no tithings as in typical churches. YOU help to bring it all together and make it happen.

Through Christ's Love and with the greatest of respect and admiration,  
Church of the Advocate.

For more info:  
<http://www.advocatechurchasheville.org/>





## THANKSGIVING PIES Needed for Church of the Advocate Thanksgiving Lunch!

(And oven space, too.  
Oh, and some servers.)

Church of the Holy Spirit will be serving lunch to 150 homeless persons on Sunday, November 5.

We have a grant from Thrivent Financial to purchase most of the ingredients for a Thanksgiving ham dinner theme. But we'll need our members to buy or bake their favorite Thanksgiving pie/s. A variety of 20-24 pies are needed. Sign up in the cubby if you can supply pie for this dinner.

The pies must be delivered to the Holy Spirit kitchen by noon on Saturday, November 4. And another need:

**What about lending us your oven? Have room in your oven to heat a ham or side dishes?** Let Pam Stein know. And if you can help serve the meal on Sunday, Nov. 5, please also notify Pam. Servers should be at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville by noon that Sunday.

## Financial Report for September, 2017

	September Actual	September Budget	Better/ (Worse)	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Better/ (Worse)
Pledges	\$ 16,334	\$ 15,417	\$ 918	\$ 139,753	\$ 138,750	\$ 1,003
Open Offerings & Other Revenues	491	920	(429)	10,257	8,280	1,977
Operating Expenses	(14,303)	(15,074)	771	(144,788)	(148,664)	3,877
	\$ 2,522	1,262	1,260	\$ 5,222	(1,634)	6,856

Parishoners interested in pledging to support the operation of our church should contact Bill Sewell, Treasurer, at [wsewell@charter.net](mailto:wsewell@charter.net) or (828)273-9917.

## Sing ! Make a Joyful Noise!

**A SEASONAL CHOIR IS FORMING** and we need your voice. The choir will sing at special times of the church year beginning with Advent and ending with Easter.

Debra Alexander is the choir director. Nancy Larkin (and others) will be accompanying the choir. Some music has already been chosen, but suggestions are more than welcome. If you love singing, this is where you should be. Rehearsals will happen on Sundays following the service (Approximately twenty minutes afterwards, so you can get a quick cup of coffee). Occasionally the choir will rehearse on Thursdays.

Doesn't matter how polished you are...this is truly an opportunity to have fun with other Holy Spirit folks and most important, "Make a Joyful Noise!"

By the way, bass voices are needed. Men, if you enjoy singing in the shower, maybe this is your opportunity to use that deep voice in the church sanctuary.

### **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT:**

The choir will sing Sunday, Dec. 3, after five rehearsals:

#### **FOUR SUNDAY REHEARSALS:**

Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Nov. 26  
(Rehearsal begins 20 minutes after end of service)

#### **ONE THURSDAY REHEARSAL:**

Nov. 30, 6:00pm.

### November Birthdays

- Annette Henry .... 3
- John Wilson ..... 3
- Chad Willis ..... 4
- Christian Martin... 8
- June Trevor..... 8
- Stephen Smith .... 10
- Maura Moloney .. 13
- Sara McDonough.. 15
- Laurie Seleski ..... 17
- Nan Hobson ..... 22
- Jeff Owen..... 23
- Betsy Browne ..... 24
- Zach Smith ..... 25
- Frances Knisley... 26



## Our Appalachian Life

by Carolyn Ogburn

(Here's a reprint from the October, 2013, issue: one of the insightful monthly columns Carolyn Ogburn wrote for Mountain Spirit.)

**Loss is an everyday** experience in my life, something that happens so frequently that it passes almost without comment. Loss of favorite pens, of earrings, of keys, cell phones, books. I've left my wallet on picnic tables by the interstate, and in the middle of city streets in the middle of the night; and it's always been returned untouched. I get lost in new places, and take the wrong roads to places I've known forever. I forget what I was going to say, or what I came in here for. I lose people's names, faces, conversations we've had. Encountering an old friend a few days ago, I forgot that he'd ever come to our home, and graciously invited him to come visit sometime. I caught the strange look I received in response, but I'll lose it at some point. I just never know quite when.

As common an occurrence as loss is for me, it's been ramped up lately. In the past week, in addition to words, faces, and names, I've lost: cell phone, ipod, credit card, key, chicken, one earring, shorts, hat, dog, favorite coffee cup, toothbrush

Most of these have been found again, sometime in a matter of hours (dog, chicken, coffee cup), and sometimes days (shorts), and sometimes weeks (ipod).

Once I found a phone after a month, still in the yard where it had fallen. Sometimes they are never found (hat, innumerable socks, earring, key). And here it seems disingenuous to use the same verb, to lose, for inanimate objects and for creatures. The chicken, Anna, didn't know she was lost. She knew exactly where she was. Theo, my dog, left me some miles into the national forest near Hot Springs to return to the car; but to me, he was lost, and I walked for hours calling his name.

The verb "to lose" has over twenty definitions in almost every dictionary I've found. The word itself is a blur, a palimpsest of languages: Old Norse, *los*, looseness, breaking up; Middle English, *losen*, to perish, from Old English *losian*, destruction; Latin, *luere*, to release, atone for; and Greek, *lyein*, to loosen, dissolve, destroy. Each layer of meaning quickens the intensity of the word, which can be used so easily to convey the meaning: "To fail to inadvertently retain (something) in such a way that it cannot be immediately recovered."

For hours, I walked the woods calling my dog's name. *Theo*, I cried, *Theo*. I clapped my hands together in a rhythmic pulse, called again. *Theo*. He often walks with me, and generally likes to keep a little ahead, just out of eyesight but well within the sound of my voice. When I call, he comes. But he didn't come. I walked ahead, thinking he'd gotten ahead of me. I turned and walked back where we'd been. Still, he did not come.

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## Our Appalachian Life

*(Continued from page 6)*

The miles of trail suddenly seemed small beside the immensity of even this little patch of forest, what remains of wilderness, as I imagined the logistics of scouring it in all directions. The trail is a sturdy one, a path raised between acres of trees, rhododendron thickets, muddy where water seeps from mossy rocks and puddles. Fallen trees littered the ground in all directions, and where they fell over the path, small trails had been worn around them. What I hadn't realized before is how much smaller the path was than the mountainside through which I walked.

Being accustomed to losing things brings a form of acceptance to that experience. A nonchalant "It'll turn up sooner or later," is the general response, when I complain, Have you seen...? Or, Where did I put my....? And, true enough, it usually does.

But when Theo was lost, I was ready to turn the mountain upside down to find him. I thought about the shepherd, who left ninety-nine sheep to find the one who was lost, or the woman who lost a coin, lit a lamp and swept the house to find it. Then I imagined the urgency of a parent in search of a lost child.

Gandhi said, "If you can't find God in the face of the next person you meet, stop looking." \* What I realized is that this seeking isn't one of quick gratification or futility, but one spurred by desire to find God. If God is lost, it's up to us, with urgent abandon, to find God, who is all around us. Sometimes it takes some effort on our part. The next person you meet appears; God is there, but...where? What would happen if I paid attention to that person with the same desperate attention with which I sought my dog? With which a parent seeks her child? What if I didn't let that person go until I'd seen the face of God?

*\*Thanks to Sierra Hollister for this quote.*

*-C.O.*

