



# SEPTEMBER MOUNTAIN SPIRIT

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### Location and website:

**Rev. Dr. Dena Bearl Whalen**  
Interim Rector  
rectorholyspiritwnc@gmail.com

433 Bone Camp Rd  
Marshall, NC 28753

<https://www.holyspiritwnc.org>

### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 956  
Mars Hill, NC 28754

### Church Office:

(828) 689-2517  
officeholyspiritwnc@gmail.com

A Note from Rev. Dr. Dena **Bearl Whalen**

## A SEASON OF CREATION AT CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



My mother loved to grow flowers and my father took pride in his lawn. My grandmother returned to her rural Georgia upbringing and began growing summer vegetables when she retired. They taught me to appreciate the beauty of nature and to be grateful for what nature provided for me.

I also grew up being taught that all of God's creation was put under our "dominion" and for our use. This is how the Creation Story in Genesis 1 was interpreted to me. And, I've learned along the way that the ancient creation myths in the first two chapters of Genesis are more true when interpreted within the Gospel context of honoring the sacredness of the whole of God's Creation, which God in Christ loves, redeems, and sustains. And, we are invited to image God through our own loving, redeeming, and sustaining.

We also learn to read Genesis anew as we learn Native cultures. From Robin Wall Kimmerer Braiding Sweetgrass:

*In the Western tradition, there is a recognized hierarchy of beings, with, of course, human people being on top – the pinnacle of evolution, the darling of Creation – and the plants at the bottom. But in Native ways of knowing, human people are often referred to as "the younger brothers of Creation." We say that humans have the least experience with how to live and thus the most to learn – we must look to our teachers among the other species for guidance. Their wisdom is apparent in the way that they live. They teach us by example. They've been on the earth far longer than we have been, and have had time to figure things out. They live both above and below the ground, joining Skyworld to the earth. Plants know how to make food and medicine from light and water, and then they give it away.*

The Episcopal Church has joined with Christians around the world in providing a Season of Creation from September 1st through the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4th – a time to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to gratitude for and protection of the Earth that God entrusted to our care. At Church of the Holy Spirit we will be drawing from a special collection of prayers, readings and music dedicated to this Season, which can be found at [newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation](http://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation). I hope you will enjoy the flavor and tone in our Sunday worship provided by these resources.

The Season of Creation will culminate with our observing the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, September 29th. The Blessing of the Animals will be part of our Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am, in the Memorial Garden (bring a chair). Please plan to bring your pets to be part of our worship and blessing.

Deacon Ty Jones will offer a guided prayer walk along our woodland trail on a couple of Sunday mornings during this season. Let's look forward to cooler days in September and this opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge of, and gratitude for, God's amazing creation!

In Christ's love,  
Dena+





## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nicki Toole	9/4
Kent Self	9/7
Stephanie McCullough	9/8
Joe Penland	9/14
Deb Carlson	9/16
Tacoma Reda	9/19
Mary Jo Sparrow	9/22
Nicholas Larson	9/24
Bill Sewell	9/25
Esther Moriarty	9/26
Anna Woodruff	9/27
Ann Shiver	9/28
Leah Mangum	9/30

# September

## EVENT CALENDAR

- SUN 1** 9 am *Through the Red Door* reading  
**10:30 am Holy Eucharist**  
 First Sunday Offering: Homeward Bound
- MON 2** Happy Labor Day! (The office will be closed)
- TUE 3** 11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
- WED 4** 9:45 am Centering Prayer  
 5:30 pm "By whose authority?" with potluck
- FRI 6** 10-2 Craft Workday
- SUN 8** 8 am Men's Breakfast  
**10:30 am Holy Eucharist**  
 12 pm Holy Conversations makeup session
- MON 9** 5:45-7:45 NAMI
- TUE 10** 11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
- WED 11** 9:45 am Centering Prayer  
 5:30 pm "By whose authority?" with potluck
- THU 12** 5 pm Discernment Committee
- SUN 15** **10:30 am Holy Eucharist**  
 9 am Rambles in the woods with Ty
- TUE 17** 11 am-1 pm Tai Chi  
 5:00 pm Vestry Meeting
- WED 18** 9:45 am Centering Prayer  
 5:30 pm "By whose authority?" with potluck
- THU 19** 3:30 pm Communication Team  
 5:30 pm Third Thursday at Twin Willows
- SUN 22** 9 am Rambles in the Woods with Ty  
**10:30 am Holy Eucharist**  
 12 pm Near Death Experience panel discussion
- MON 23** 5:45-7:45 NAMI
- TUE 24** 11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
- WED 25** 9:45 am Centering Prayer
- THU 26** 5 pm Discernment Committee
- SUN 29** **10:30 am Holy Eucharist**  
 Blessing of the Animals in the Memorial Garden

# A WOODLAND RAMBLE OF THE SPIRIT

By Kathleen Phillips

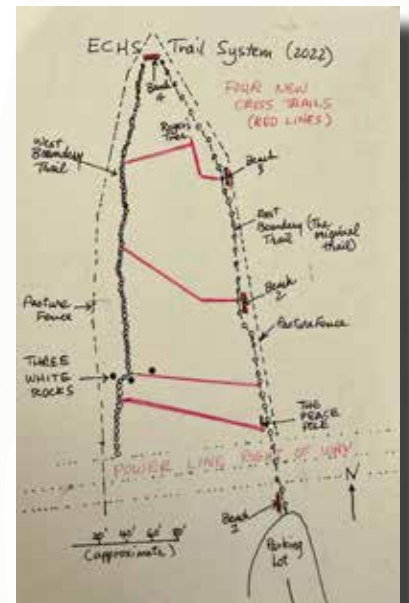
Before church on Sunday mornings, Deacon Ty Jones often can be found tidying up around the Memorial Garden or the Woodland Trails. He and Jim Woodruff, among others, are the unseen stewards of these treasures.

Last Monday I had a chance to revisit our woods with Ty, who provided a hand-drawn map with descriptions of the various trails that have been developed and maintained over the years.

Ty provided some orientation and background as we entered the leafy shade, heading north from the parking lot. Soon our ramble slowed to a crawl as the abundance of living things under the splendid tree canopy begged our attention.



Ty shared his knowledge of the plants as we made our way up the eastern trail. Examples of the succession of life were all around us. Ty demonstrated how the late Roger Hartner would give a big bear hug to an enormous poplar in the tall grove near the “top” of our property. We paused to remember our friend and breathe in the warm moist fragrance of the earth.



We turned south at the northern apex and enjoyed the view of a neighbor’s colorful field of joe pie weed, thistle, and iron weed just beyond the fence line. Moving from sunlight to shade again we came upon a cathedral-like circle of trees, pausing with quiet awe. Nearby, this year Ty encountered a buck, a doe and two spotted fawns.

Down the western trail, we passed through a glade of Christmas ferns, whose bright greens dress up the winter palette of grays and browns. Just beyond are “The Three Sisters”, large quartzite stones which dress up the

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# A WOODLAND RAMBLE OF THE SPIRIT

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woods floor. Nearby these stones is a comfortable bench for quiet contemplation, or maybe for enjoying a snack or beverage.

As we returned, I was amazed to discover that we'd spent an hour discovering hidden treasures on the Holy Spirit campus! Tired yet refreshed, I promise to go on another woodsy ramble, and soon.



## Sunday Morning Rambles in Our Woods 9:00 September 15 and 22

Deacon Ty will lead easy walks on our trails, punctuated by short meditations based on the Carmina Gadelica. The Gadelica is a priceless collection of fragments of the indigenous Irish and Scottish spiritual traditions, which are embraced today in “Earth Prayer” and “Celtic Spirituality”.

Everyone is welcome, and “quiet,” as we make our way, will be an option. **Please wear comfortable walking shoes, and if it’s warm, insect repellent might be handy.**



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

# Marnie Wilson

*“Though she be but little, she is fierce”*

*Trucking entrepreneur, horseback rider, motorcyclist, artist, whitewater kayaker and rafter*



By Deidre Soileau

Marnie Wilson takes life as it comes, with joy and determination. She may not have lived the life she envisioned when she was young; instead, she grabbed everything fate brought to her and made life fun.

Marnie was born in Gainesville, Florida in 1938. With the onset of WWII, her family moved to Connecticut where her father worked in a defense plant (as the only male in the family, and with two children, her father was ineligible to enlist or be drafted during the war). When Marnie was 12, her father joined the Navy SeaBees, and the family headed to Japan. Marnie remembers climbing Mt. Fuji, living through air raids (sometimes sleeping in a cave at night), and experiencing a major earthquake. When her father was reassigned to the Philippines, the rest of the family went home to Connecticut, then back to Gainesville. Marnie’s mother was a teacher and school principal.



Marnie got her first pony when she was four years old and was never without a horse until she was 73.

She met her future husband, Cal, in the 8th grade, and they married in 1957. Marnie had a scholarship to nursing school, but after 6 months, she gave it up. “It wasn’t for me,” she said. “I needed to mature.” Instead, she worked as a medical records staffer in order to put Cal through college.

When Cal graduated and starting working, Marnie kept anywhere from 2-9 children for working parents, as well as her own three children. “I was the neighborhood pied piper,” she recalls.

They eventually bought farm property in Hernando County, Florida, on which to build a home, and they lived there for 40 years. They started a trucking and tractor business, built a house, and rode motorcycles when they had time. (continued next page)



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“It wasn’t what I had in mind for my life, there was no paycheck,” she said. “But it had a lot of benefits.” Marnie learned to drive just about any truck or tractor you could imagine. They ran the business for 15 years, until their daughter bought it from them.

“Our philosophy was that we didn’t want to wait until we retired to travel and have outdoor adventures,” Marnie said. And so their next stage of life began when

their children encouraged them visit North Carolina and try out kayaking on the rivers. This led to years of traveling as guides and/or staff for a variety of whitewater kayaking and rafting trips. Many of their “gigs” were in the United States, but they also traveled extensively in Central America, and spent time in Mexico and Canada.

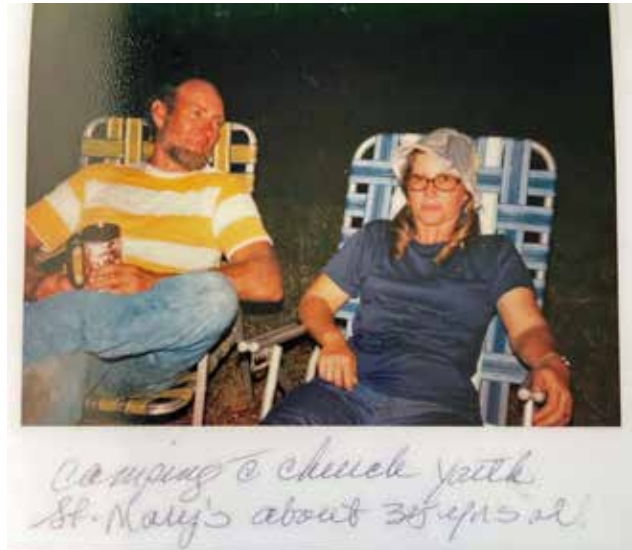
They realized that most of their friends were in North Carolina, so they decided to put down roots in Madison County. At the time, the Nantahala Outdoor Center needed bus drivers. When they heard Marnie had a CDL license, they hired her over the phone, and shortly after they also hired Cal. Within a few days, she was driving a bus with 54 passengers.

Marnie had always been a gifted artist, and she honed her skills in North Carolina, painting with friends for many years (and continues to this day).

The Wilsons found property on Blowhole Road in Marshall, built a new home, and lived there for 16 years. In 2015, they moved to Alexander, NC. “The Alexander house is the first place in 56 years we didn’t build ourselves,” Marnie said, with a touch of pride and wistfulness. Cal died in 2020, and Marnie continued to live in Alexander until this past August 26.

Marnie was in her new home the last time we talked for this article. With typical Marnie spirit, as she mentioned a few things she missed as a result of downsizing and moving to an independent living complex, and then she *immediately* countered with the positives.

Marnie Wilson makes fun and adventure wherever she is.





# ENTREPRENEUR WORSHIP

Deacon Ty Jones (jtjones100@gmail.com)

One of my leader peers in Scouting—a talented blue-collar worker who only wanted to help a good company get better—worked on the final assembly line for the Boeing Corporation in the heady days of the 1970’s, when they were on top of the corporate world. He told me stories about how managers there took liberties with “quality control”, allowing corporate culture to bend towards carelessness. The harvest of woe is now clear to everyone, after two Boeing 737 airplanes crashed, and the door popped off another while in flight. Decision-makers in business are tempted to cut corners for profits; corporate leaders are just people after all, whose chickens come home to roost.

Today, the love of quick money in American culture can tempt us to idealize entrepreneurs. We sometimes admire them appropriately, because no one enjoys their work more than

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

**Matthew 6:24**

an entrepreneur; they make something out of nothing, something we admire and desire. When I worked at new companies, I found myself appreciating the founders for their creative passion and boundless enthusiasm. It just felt right for me to help keep their vision viable. And at their best, entrepreneurs appreciate how their arrogance can undermine a powerful vision, alienate the workforce, overturn the good will of customers, and sink a fine corporation. At their

worst entrepreneurs are nothing to admire, let alone worship.

We probably all know some promising young person graduating from one of our best schools with little more ambition than to make gobs of money helping great wealth compound itself. I sometimes worry how our potential as a nation to invent anew, and build solid products well, has been eroding. Of course, mastery and expertise outside of our schools also comes with those first, very humble but instructive jobs—by way of experimentation with what fascinates and motivates, by bravely learning from one’s mistakes, by turning to intentional collaborations and friendships, and by finding helpful mentors along the way.

Often and ever-so-slowly with “entry level” experiences—whether in a big box store, or maybe at a TJMaxx or a Starbucks—a young person may be inspired to envision the start-up with their own name as CEO. We do need good entrepreneurs, and not so much for worshipping easy money, but for running successful companies.







# Out of My Mind

*Essays by Tom Panek*

## **Summertime Browns** (an essay for Creation Season)

Of all the seasonal transitions, I think summer into fall is the most intriguing. All the others have a defining nexus: the trees and bushes leaf out at the end of spring and the brown grass turns green. As autumn abates, falling leaves lay bare the limbs and branches. The skies grow gray and cold. And the snow melts (in many climes), the flowers bloom, and the days get warmer, when winter finally departs.

But summer seems to slide gradually into autumn, like a shy lover dropping hints of better things to come. The trees and grass take on a drier, yellowish tinge. Late summer flowers are often hues of fall: gold, burnt orange, brick red. All are a contrast to the rich blues, purples, and pinks of spring. Random leaves begin to show red or orange in the trees and slowly cascade into the riotous burst of color that is so familiar to us all. Even the insects herald the oncoming season. The cacophony of humid night katydids in the trees is soon joined by the solitary cricket chirping in a chilly morning kitchen.

Gone away are the afternoon thunderstorms, slowly displaced by foggy mornings that wisp away into crisp, cloudless azure skies. Chilly rains endlessly fall for days in between. The last of the southern breezes give way to frosty gusts and swirling leaves. Morning dew is now crystalline rime, coating the meadows in diamonds, shrouding the land in a translucent cloak.

Is summer really drawing to an end? Or is it merely preparing for the icy blankets where new life will lie dormant, until once again it graces the land?

The shorts are put away. The sweatshirts are dug out. Summer has quietly sneaked away...



# First Sunday offering this month benefits Homeward Bound

# COMMUNITY

## Mars Hill University Bonner Scholars at Holy Spirit

*Many thanks to Mars Hill University Bonner Scholars, our Welcoming Committee, and our Property Committee for a fun and productive afternoon on Wednesday August 21!*

*These students came to help with some projects and then sat down to break bread together over a delicious feast.*

*Best of luck and many blessings to them in their first year at MHU!*

**The Bonner Scholars Program** provides students who are interested in community service with the financial support needed to attend college and continue to be involved in the community. The Bonner Scholarship is available to students who have a passion for community work and social justice. In addition to service experience, most students must demonstrate financial need as evidenced by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be selected for the program. Bonner Scholars participate in service, leadership development and meetings/trainings for approximately 10 hours a week. *Click here for more information:* [Bonner Scholars Program](#)





# LEARNING AT HOLY SPIRIT

## BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?

Wednesday Night Discussions  
and Potlucks

September 4, 11, and 18 at 5:30

At the start of Jesus's ministry, the Jews were amazed at His teachings because He spoke "as one who had authority." From the beginning, His power or authority was felt intensely by those to whom he ministered. And yet much of Jesus's ministry was in conflict with the authority of both empire and temple.

**In September, Starr O'Hara will lead a three-part dinner and discussion series on the theme of authority in the gospels.** We'll explore what Jesus says about power and authority, as well as taking a deeper look at the subtextual implications hidden in the gospel narratives. Join Starr at the church on the first three Wednesdays of September to learn more about these fascinating topics. ***This is a potluck event, so bring a dish to share!***

## Near Death Experience Panel Discussion

September 22 12pm (after church)

Many of us have struggled with the knowledge of death and dying as inevitable and have wondered what these experiences will be like for us personally and for our loved ones. Several members of our congregation have been deeply affected by a personal experience of dying and/or their experience as companion to someone on their death journey. Please join us on September 22 in the community room after church services for a discussion panel on this topic. It promises to be enlightening and interesting as we venture to transform our approach to death away from fear and toward the Sacred. We will plan to start the discussion 15 minutes after services end.



## Donate!

# Breakfast and Home Good Items for the Homeless

### (for delivery September 3)

Thanks to all who have donated breakfast items for our homeless population. We will once again provide meal donations and home goods and for breakfast to be delivered on September 3.

Mary Jo Sparrow will be taking them to Homeward Bound to be dispersed at several locations. She will have boxes at church along the hallway and items can be dropped off now thru Labor Day, September 2. If you'd rather drop items at her home, she lives at 108 Chestnut St, Mars Hill but please call or text before you drop them at 828-691-8601.

The items requested are *granola or breakfast bars, instant oatmeal or grits, fresh fruit, individually wrapped muffins, or baked goods and juice boxes*. Everything should be in individual packages, and if providing fruit please leave a note if you leave it in the fridge at church! In addition to breakfast items, they can use *toothpaste, shampoo, and deodorant*. These can be left in or beside the breakfast boxes marked in the hallway, too.

## A Science Moment

Submitted by Gail Kase

### Will This Storm Become a Hurricane? Here's How Meteorologists Tell

As people in North America and the Caribbean brace for what is predicted to be a particularly intense hurricane season in 2024, the need for accurate early storm forecasting has never been greater. New techniques are helping forecasters spot storms that could develop into dangerous hurricanes earlier than ever.

[Click here for a link to the article printed in the August Scientific American.](#)



"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."  
— Mother Teresa.

[www.ShareCatholic.com](http://www.ShareCatholic.com)

# PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*If you come upon a path, take it!*

*© J. Patrick Mahon*

## Third Thursdays at Twin Willows

September 19 & October 17  
5:30 pm

Something new, anyone?  
How about no cooking  
and no cleaning!

On a trial basis, we will gather at Twin Willows (next door to the Mars Hill University campus and the tennis courts) for food and fun on the Third Thursday of September and October.

[Click here for their menu.](#)

We'll have a signup sheet in the cubby as we get closer. Joe would like to know approximately how many people to expect.



## More Beautiful than the Honey Locust Tree Are the Words of the Lord

~Mary Oliver

1.

In the household of God, I have stumbled in recitation, and in my mind I have wandered.  
I have interrupted worship with discussion.  
Once I extinguished the Gospel candle after all the others.

But never held the cup to my mouth lagging in gratitude.

2.

The Lord forgives many things,  
So I have heard.

3.

The deer came into the field.  
I saw her peaceful face and heard the shuffle of her breath.  
She was sweetened by merriment and not afraid,  
but bold to say  
whose field she was crossing: spoke the tap of her foot:  
"It is God's, and mine."

But only that she was born into the poem that God made, and called the world.

From *Thirst*; Beacon Press. © 2006 by Mary Oliver.



# SEPTEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	09/01/24	09/08/24	09/15/24	09/22/24	09/29/24	10/6/24
<b>Vestry</b>	Carol VanVoorhis	Amanda Hilty	Bendik Clark	Gail Kase	Mike Robinson	Peggy Wilson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Crellin Byrd	Gail Kase	Amanda Hilty	Peggy Wilson	Ann Smith	Gail Kase
<b>Offertory Musician</b>	Jan Mallindine	Jennifer Reda	Mark Holland	Teresa Sumpter	Keith Pierce	Nancy Larkin
<b>First Reader</b>	Claire Gillespie	Amanda Hilty	Beth Mallindine	Carol VanVoorhis	Gail Kase	Michael Smith
<b>Second Reader</b>	Dick Jordan	Barbara Schauer	Jan Mallindine	Kathleen Phillips	Ginny Lentz	Patty King
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Pam McNally	Peggy Barnes	Ingrid Diedereren	Barbara Schauer	Ron Pell	Carol VanVoorhis
<b>Greeter</b>	Ginny Lentz	Harold Toney	Mary Jo Sparrow	Pam McNally	Peggy Barnes	Tom Panek
<b>Ushers</b>	Amanda Hilty Teresa Matthews	Dick Jordan Adam Reda	Peggy Barnes Bendik Clark	Susan Sherard Teresa Matthews	Amanda Hilty Bendik Clark	Adam Reda Dick Jordan
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Pam McNally	Crellin Byrd	Loraine Hilty	Gail Kase	Tom Panek	Peggy Barnes
<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>	Hiltys	Sewells	Claire Gillespie	Danny Wyatt	Bendik Clark Ruth Van Sickle	Peggy Wilson
<b>Sunday Cleanup</b>	Peggy Wilson	Crellin Byrd	Loraine Hilty	Starr O'Hara	Rod Vestal	Toneys
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ginny Koranek	Nancy Whitaker	Jennifer Reda	Peggy Wilson	Loraine Hilty	Smiths
<b>Bulletin Folder</b>	Starr O'Hara	John Doran	Mary Maupin	Nancy Larkin	Loraine Hilty	Pam McNally
<b>Healing Prayer</b>	Nancy Larkin	Gail Kase	Barbara Schauer	Ann Smith	Nancy Larkin	Barbara Schauer
<b>Camera</b>	Barbara Schauer	Teresa Matthews	Carolyn Homra	Starr O'Hara	Barbara Schauer	Teresa Matthews
<b>Supply Stocker</b>	Mary Jo Sparrow	Mary Jo Sparrow	Mary Jo Sparrow	Mary Jo Sparrow	Mary Jo Sparrow	Claire Gillespie
<b>Trash</b>	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Teresa Matthews

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Dena Whalen,  
Interim Rector  
Martie Carson, Parish  
Administrator  
Teresa Sumpter, Parish Musician  
Rebecca Sharp, Executive Director,  
La Esperanza, and Parish  
Custodian  
Ana Gaspar Lara, Co-Director,  
La Esperanza  
...and many, many volunteers!

## VESTRY MEMBERS

Gail Kase, Senior Warden  
Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden  
Debra Carlson  
Bendik Clark  
Claire Gillespie  
Amanda Hilty  
Mike Robinson  
Carol VanVoorhis

**TREASURER**  
Sam Shiver

**CLERK**  
Deidre Soileau