



OCTOBER 2024

MOUNTAIN SPIRIT

We apologize for the delay in getting this issue to you.

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON CONTRIBUTING TO HURRICANE RELIEF THROUGH THE CHURCH.](#)

Table of Contents

Rector's Note	2	Welcome! Welcome!	8
Member Birthdays	3	Season Of Creation	9
October Calendar	3	Fun Spider Facts	10
Member Spotlight	4	Sharings	11
Heavenly Gardens	6	Photo of the Month	12
Out of My Mind	7	Fellowship+	13
		Ministry Schedule	14

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A Note from Rev. Dr. Dena Bearl Whalen

Beloved of Holy Spirit,

During this time of transition and in the discernment and call of a new rector, we are all asking in various ways: What's so unique about Church of the Holy Spirit? To answer the question, we take time to reflect, to dust off our ministries and try to take a fresh look at ourselves and our surroundings.

One gift I see is a spirit of investment and support among you. You are invested in the life and health of your church and you are invested in each other's sense of belonging and fulfillment in this place.

Perhaps because the size of the congregation allows most everyone to feel connected, if someone says, "Let's try this (whatever this is)" or "That needs our attention", the idea or request is usually heard and supported. What a blessing simply to be heard! And then responded to!

I have certainly felt heard and supported when designing our worship and liturgies. Thanks to Teresa Sumpter for investing in the Season of Creation by way of her thoughtful music selections for worship. Thanks to our Flower Guild for enthusiastically creating the weekly themes of Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Weren't we all enriched by their creative endeavors which enhanced our worship experience!

By the time this article is being read, we will have celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, hopefully in the natural setting of our Memorial Garden, and our pets will have been blessed during the service – and, I'm sure, will have contributed their antics and sweet presence to our worship!

From October 2 through October 13 I will be in Spain, walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago. I will miss the changing colors of the leaves here in North Carolina and will look forward to sharing my experiences along the Camino with you when I return.

Buen Camino and all best blessings,
Dena



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Johnson	10/1
Emily Ball	10/2
Katrina Caskey	10/6
Bob Cumbie	10/10
Amanda Hilty	10/11
Larry Burda	10/12
Grant Trevor	10/16
Adam Reda	10/23
Jan Malladine	10/27

OCTOBER

EVENT CALENDAR

TUE	1	11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
WED	2	9:45 am Centering Prayer
THU	3	5 pm Discernment Committee
SUN	6	8 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Holy Eucharist First Sunday Offering: Pisgah Legal Services
TUE	8	11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
WED	9	9:45 am Centering Prayer
THU	10	5 pm Discernment Committee
SUN	13	9 am Dealing with Loss 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
MON	14	5:45 pm NAMI
TUE	15	11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
WED	16	9:45 am Centering Prayer
THU	17	3:30 pm Communications Team 5:30 Third Thursday at Twin Willows (rib night!)
FRI	18	5 pm Sisters in Spirit at Nancy Larkin house
SUN	20	9 am CAT results discussion 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Outreach and Welcome Committees meet after the service
TUE	22	11 am-1 pm Tai Chi 5 pm Vestry Meeting
WED	23	9:45 am Centering Prayer
THU	24	5:00 pm Discernment Committee
SUN	27	10:30 am Holy Eucharist
MON	28	5:45 NAMI
TUE	29	11 am-1 pm Tai Chi
WED	30	9:45 am Centering Prayer

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Larry and Genevieve Burda



By Gail Kase

Larry and Genevieve Burda are founding members of Holy Spirit and have been pillars of our Madison County community for the past 40 years. That said, travelling has been their joy and passion, as well as the course of their life. They have been a couple in motion, starting when they met in Boulder Colorado. Genevieve (who is a native of western North Carolina) was in college at the University of Colorado, majoring in Home-Ec (“heavy on the economics”). She and some girlfriends were out “cruising around” when they ran into Larry and some friends. They met and hit it off. They recall their first date, where Genevieve refused a beer and asked for a 7-Up instead (“I was a prissy little thing back then.”) Larry quickly adds the “soda cost twice as much as a beer.” (70/35 cents).

Having served in the Air Force, Larry was at Colorado State University majoring in Business Administration. Genevieve earned a degree in Biological Science after transferring to Colorado State, which she found to be a better fit. They were married in September 1965, in Genevieve’s home town of Franklin NC.



The Burda’s moved to Texas, where Genevieve worked as a wastewater chemist, and Larry began what was to be a long career in Human Resources. Their next stop was Raton, New Mexico, where Larry worked as a Human Resources manager, and Genevieve was pregnant with their first daughter, Kathleen. Even though Raton was a little “rough,” their time there marked the beginning of a life-long affection with New Mexico. The young family moved back to Colorado for two years, where Larry began his career with Honeywell, and their second daughter, Cindy, was born. Honeywell sent Larry to Mars Hill as an HR manager responsible for opening a plant with ~600 employees. The family came the following year and their third daughter, Carey, was born in 1975.

Honeywell required Larry “to be involved in the community.” He took this very seriously and subsequently served on numerous boards (this list is far from exhaustive): Girl Scouts of America, St. Joseph’s Hospital (now part of Mission), Mars Hill College advisory board, various Madison County boards serving as mediator, CHC Chair, and he only recently took early retirement from Hot

Springs Health Program. The St. Joseph's Hospital board was where Larry felt most satisfied, because it was "meaty," meaning there was a lot to bite into and accomplish.

Genevieve served on the boards of Trustees at WCU as a Governor's appointee, served as Secretary of the Board, and Chaired the Administration and Finance Committee. She was active in community service, including Cradle of Forestry and 4-H. She laughs as she tells a story of an outing with a group of 4-H 10-12 year olds to the County Jail. As the main prison door closed behind Genevieve and the children, the prisoners behind bars shook the cell doors and shouted "colorful language." This adventure provided stories for a long time, especially at "show and tell at school."

Larry's ancestors immigrated from Czechoslovakia in the 1870's, finally settling on a farm in Nebraska. Seventy years later, Larry was born. Even though he had to quit school in 8th grade to work on the farm, Larry's father was a talented and enterprising man who eventually became a successful businessman. Genevieve's maternal grandparents immigrated from Lithuania in the early 1900s. The stories and lives of their ancestors are lessons in overcoming struggles to make their new country work for them.

Genevieve is proud of her parents' careers as public education teachers, and she and her brothers established a permanently endowed scholarship at WCU. Her father later started a gravel and road construction business as well as an extensive cattle farm.

When Larry and Genevieve moved to Mars Hill in the early '80's, they met Susan Sherard at the Mars Hill Methodist Church. Susan was called to seminary in NYC, and Honeywell took Larry and Genevieve back to Colorado. In 1985, they all returned to Mars Hill, where Larry opened the Mars Hill Hardware Store. At that time, Holy Spirit was an "unhoused" traveling congregation. Two years later, Bishop Weinhauer said it was "time to build a church." (The Burda's had first discovered the current Holy Spirit property when they were looking for a place to build a home.) Larry was Senior Warden when the Bishop approved the current site. They have been active members since the very beginning of Holy Spirit.

Genevieve is known for her beautiful photographs, and she has been a shutter bug for as long as she can remember. But the Burdas' primary passion has been fishing--and travel (often with Julie and Bob Johnson). When I asked what brings them joy or contentment now, Genevieve replied she has the freedom to do anything, even stay up all night if she wants. Larry finds contentment mowing with his new Toro 3000 Zero-Turn mower.



HEAVENLY GARDENS "BOOKEND" THE BIBLE

GETHSEMANE IS REALITY

by Deacon Ty Jones (jtjones100@gmail.com)

The Book of Genesis describes how God planted the terrestrial Paradise, the Garden of Eden (Gen 2-3; also alluded to in Ezek 28: 13-15; 31: 8-9, 18). Adam and Eve were created for this place of unsurpassed beauty, perfection and tranquility "to till it and keep it" with one restriction: "... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

The story describes how Adam and Eve's wonderful creativity and intelligence was challenged by the crafty serpent, and that out of that encounter, the destiny of our ancestors became suffering, self-awareness, and the free will to choose good over evil. Life outside Paradise was never going to be comfortable (see the story of Cain and Abel, Gen 4).

The vision of "heavenly Eden" in the Book of Revelation (21-22) is the apocalyptic vision of the restored Eden for "those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (21:27) "And there will be no more night; they need no lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." (22:5)



The soaring vision of God "making all things new" we sometimes read as part of the funeral service: "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." (21: 3b-4)

Between the Bible's bookends of awesome visions of the heavenly garden is the story of

Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, across the dry ravine to the east of the Temple, just a short walk up the hillside. This place of prayer speaks to the brutal reality of Jesus' awful mental and emotional state in those hours immediately before he was put on trial and executed. Three gospel accounts (Luke 22: 39-46; Mk 14:32-42; Mt 26:36-56) describe his terrible suffering there, and his feelings of loneliness and betrayal.

Today, the eight existing olive trees are visited by pilgrims and tourists, but are not the original trees, having been replanted sometime after the Crusades (1100's CE). Perhaps some of you have enjoyed tranquility in their shadows?



Out of My Mind

Essays by Tom Panek

Can You?

I'm eagerly awaiting the first chilly morning that heralds the coming autumn weather. You know the one – when the frost subdues the worn summer hues for the brilliant palette that will paint the land. This is my favorite time of year. It sets my senses afire. Autumn washes over and through me, sparking my creativity and shoving me out the door to drink it all in. I'm fully alive

I wondered the other day at the way our seasons seamlessly transition from one to the next with no specific time that marks the hour of change. We humans have no hope of replicating this miracle. Our changes inevitably have that one moment that can be pointed to despite our best efforts to mask it. What nature does that we cannot is to engender every single consideration of its existence and ever so slowly blend it into a symphonic cycle of perpetual transformation. Even the greatest bonsai master, with all the patience and skill in a lifelong pursuit, can't return the tree to a previous state and recreate the miraculous metamorphosis that takes place in nature.

How is it that nature can do this endlessly, always using the same tools and materials, and still sculpt so many minute, subtle differences time after time? Neither science nor our own expansive imaginations can define the essence of this mystery and isolate the one element of magic that fuels this magnificent engine. It draws on all the energy of the world yet depletes none of it. It moves forward unfettered, with only our memories to create its past. And we, blinded by our own brief experience, cannot see and hear the constant performance that plays out before us. We define our own artificial doorways from one season to another. The calendar tells us when it is Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. Only by stripping away this shallow construct can we hope to somehow meld with the flow and become aware.

Can you see it? Can you hear it?

CHURCH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

By Claire Gillespie

The Welcome Committee is a relatively new committee. Our goal is to welcome and involve all members and visitors into the life of our church. We work to build on existing foundations and for ways to involve the greater community and Mars Hill University in church services, activities, and special events.

Thus far the Welcome team has had four successful events:

- Thirty or more folks are having lots of good eats and fun getting to know fellow church members better as part of the supper club which changes groups every four months. If you haven't added your name to this event, now is the time. New groups will be formed soon.
- Individual team members have been sending birthday cards to ALL church members. Getting a surprise card from a church member earns a smile of joy!
- In three years trying, we've finally had success partnering with Mars Hill University. Fifteen Bonner Scholar first-year students came to fulfill a service project. The Grounds committee guided three teams in washing windows, hauling brush, and sanitizing nursery toys while members of the welcome committee prepared a lasagna dinner. The students delighted in homemade garlic knots and cookies, plus church grown peaches and a hike on our trail led by Ty Jones.
- Nancy and Pam Hayhurst sat under a tent, (with the help of Jim Thorsen), in the broiling sun on a hot August afternoon welcoming Mars Hill students and giving out our post cards.



Season of Creation

Last month in our Sunday services we appreciated just a few of the vast resources found collected on denominational websites associated with seasonofcreation.org. Readings from scripture and other sources allowed us at Church of the Holy Spirit to better “recognize ourselves as ‘the work of the Lord’s creative act,’ to contemplate nature and all that dwells in it, and to care for our Common Home” (summary from an associated Catholic website).

The point of Deacon Ty’s leading “Rambles” in the woodland trail above our church was to engage our bodies and minds in “loving, contemplating, and feeling part of God’s creative work” and to “reflect on the importance of ecological conversion” (churchy words which encourage us to become more than complacent observers and consumers, phrases from the website). In our denomination, and especially in this congregation in the mountains, we enjoy a very special connection to the heritage of Celtic spirituality. That rustic agrarian way of seeing and connecting to the Earth can be a way back from consumerism to a deeper appreciation of who we are meant to be. [Here is a link to the script Ty used for the two Sunday “Rambles.”](#)

On the last Sunday of September, we celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi and appreciated the blessing of our pets. Perhaps nothing reminds us so much of our best selves as when we addressed our pet friends: “May you and ... [your owner’s name] enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.” (from the blessing)

As Pope Francis wrote in Laudato Si’, **“Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”** (LS 14)

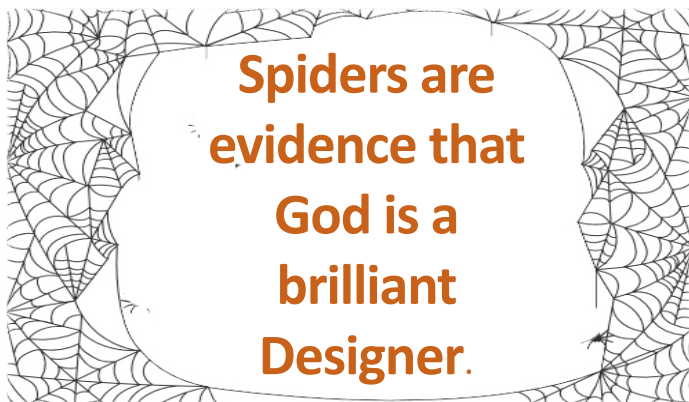


Fun Spider Facts

by Gail Kase



- 1.** Arachnophobia (fear of Spiders) is the most common phobia.
- 2.** Spiders have 1 to 4 pairs of eyes, most have 4 pairs. Jumping spiders have 4 pairs and are quite colorful with obvious differences between sexes. Jumping spiders do not weave webs.
- 3.** Tarantulas don't weave round webs, but they line their burrows with silk.
- 4.** Spiders can sense earth's electric field and ride it. The spider stands on tip toe, raises her abdomen to the sky, extrudes strands of silk—and takes off. Silk picks up a negative charge as it leaves the spider's body which is repelled by the negatively charged plants and ground. They don't need a breeze to fly, they ride electric waves. Did you ever wonder how spiders could lay so much silk so beautifully? Well, this is how.
- 5.** Autumn is "Spider Season." Almost every time I go outside, I find myself shrouded in spider silk. The orb weaving spiders can weave an entire web every day using several types of silk: different strengths, thicknesses, some sticky, some not.



Making the House Ready for the Lord

—Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice—it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances—but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-geese, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon. Come in, Come in.

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

The Long Invisible

Poetry Collection Debut

By Michael Dechane

I've been writing poems as long as I can remember but this week my debut poetry collection was released from Wildhouse Publishing. Wildhouse is a very interesting press that I imagine many of you might enjoy. You can read more about *The Long Invisible* [here](#). I hope to be able to share some poems at a reading in the future and connect with anyone at ECHS who has an interest in poetry. I'm planning a virtual launch party on Oct. 23 (8 PM, EST) that you can join to hear some poetry and meet some of my mentors and friends. I'm also tentatively planning an in-person book launch event at Bagatelle Books in West Asheville on Oct. 24, sometime that evening. That's still TBD. Thanks again for your welcome and all you've collectively done to make this such a vibrant, hospitable community.

Michael Dechane (a new, regular visitor with his partner Regan Read) has just released his debut collection of poetry.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Roadside Beauty

North Carolina uses money from vanity plates to add joy to passersby!

Photo courtesy of Claire and RobertJohn Gillespie



Sisters in Spirit

It's Time to Reconnect
After a Busy Summer

Friday, October 18, 2024
5-7 p.m.

Nancy Larkin's
"Place by the River"

34 Whitt Branch Rd.,
Weaverville*
828-230-6982

Happy Hour!

Bring an appetizer to share,
beverage of your choice, and an
outdoor chair.
(Rain plans—TBD)

*Directions: Starting at 213 and S. Main St., go south about 2 miles. Cross the freeway. The second road to the left is Beech Glen. Turn left. Follow it about a 1 ½ miles. When you come to a fork in the road take the right fork. The house is immediately on the right.



**"I saw the angel
in the marble and
carved until I set him
free."**

Michelangelo
(referring to his sculpture
of David)

Third Thursday at Twin Willows

October 17 5:30 pm
525 Cascade St, Mars Hill
RIB NIGHT!

Sign up sheet in the cubbie.

October Ministry Schedule

	10/06/24	10/13/24	10/20/24	10/27/24	11/03/24
Vestry	Mike Robinson	Deb Carlson	Claire Gillespie	Peggy Wilson	Carol Van Voorhis
Acolyte	Gail Kase	Peggy Wilson	Gail Kase	Ann Smith	Peggy Wilson
Offertory Musician	Nancy Larkin	Rebecca Sharp	Mike Robinson	Robertjohn Gillespie	Jan Mallindine
First Reader	Michael Smith	Ron Pell	Mark Holland	Ty Jones	Ruth Van Sickle
Second Reader	Patty King	Beth Mangum	Ingrid Diederer	Starr O'Hara	Bendik Clark
Prayer Leader	Carol VanVoorhis	Gail Kase	Kathleen Phillips	Peggy Wilson	Ron Pell
Greeter	Tom Panek	Barbara Schauer	Ginny Lentz	Dick Jordan	Harold Toney
Ushers	Adam Reda Dick Jordan	Teresa Matthews Adam Reda	Dick Jordan Amanda Hilty	Susan Sherard Teresa Matthews	Bendik Clark Amanda Hilty
Eucharistic Minister	Peggy Barnes	Crellin Byrd	Lorraine Hilty	Tom Panek	Pam McNally
Coffee Hour Host	Peggy Wilson	Pam Hayhurst	Ann Shiver	Nancy Whitaker	Ann Toney
Sunday Cleanup	Toneys	Rebecca Sharp	Sewells	Peggy Wilson	Rod Vestal
Altar Guild	Smiths	Jennifer Reda	Lorraine Hilty	Ginny Koranek	Colleen Boll
Bulletin Folder	Dick Jordan	Ruth Van Sickle	Bobbie Pell	Martie Carson	Colleen Boll
Healing Prayer	Barbara Schauer	Gail Kase	Ann Smith	Nancy Larkin	Gail Kase
Camera	Teresa Matthews	Carolyn Homra	Barbara Schauer	Starr O'Hara	Teresa Matthews
Supply Stocker	Claire Gillespie	Claire Gillespie	Claire Gillespie	Claire Gillespie	Danny Wyatt
Trash	Teresa Matthews	Teresa Matthews	Teresa Matthews	Teresa Matthews	Bobby Wilson

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

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