

# The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



June 30, 2019

Called to embody God's love by welcoming everyone who enters  
and by empowering all who stay to make a difference in the world.

## Calendar

Sun	Jun 30	Pentecost 3 Holy Eucharist 11 am <b>CAT survey closes at midnight</b>
Tue	Jul 2	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Jul 7	Pentecost 4 Holy Eucharist 11 am Book Study: <i>My Grandmother's Hands</i>
Mon	Jul 8	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
Sun	Jul 14	Pentecost 5 Holy Eucharist 11 am Book Study: <i>My Grandmother's Hands</i> Abraham's Table 4-8 pm WCU picnic area
Tue	Jul 16	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Jul 21	Pentecost 6 Holy Eucharist 11 am Book Study: <i>My Grandmother's Hands</i>
Sun	Jul 28	Pentecost 7 Holy Eucharist 11 am
Sun	Aug 4	Pentecost 8 Holy Eucharist 11 am Book Study: <i>Prayers of the Cosmos</i>
Tue	Aug 5	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Thu	Aug 8	Holy Conversation 5:30 pm
Sun	Aug 11	Pentecost 9 Holy Eucharist 11 am Book Study: <i>Prayers of the Cosmos</i>
Sat	Aug 17	Holy Conversation 10 am
Sun	Aug 18	Pentecost 10 Holy Eucharist 11 am
Tue	Aug 20	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Aug 25	Pentecost 11 Holy Eucharist 11 am
Fri	Nov 2	Fruit of the Vine Wine Event 6:30 pm

## Serving this Sunday

Chalice: Betsy Swift

Reader:

Music: Savannah Bennett

Coffee: Judy Annis

Readings: [2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14](#),  
[Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#), [Galatians 5:1,13-25](#),  
[Luke 9:51-62](#)

## Serving during June

Flowers: Judy Annis

Linen: Faye Jacobson

Communion: Judy Annis & Faye Jacobson

Bread: Doug & Mary Michael Hanks

Greeters: Hank Sharp &

Lydia Aydlett

## Serving during July

Flowers: Muff Lyons & Margot Wilcox

Linen: Margot Wilcox

Communion: Muff Lyons & Laurie

Hulbert

Bread: Judy Robinson

Greeter: Steve Steinbrueck

[Sermon Link](#)

**Childcare is available during  
the service most Sundays.**

## CAT Survey Closes on Sunday

This is the final push to get as many of you as we possibly can to take the time to complete the CAT survey. It is of utmost importance to the search for a new rector. To those of you who have completed it already, THANK YOU! To anyone reading this who received the link but has not done it, please, please do! Your truthful input, whatever it may be, matters!



# Rector Search



On another topic, the dates for the Holy Conversations have been finalized and placed on the calendar. They are: Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place where you can choose your preferred time to participate.

## A Surprising Retreat

By The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer

Thank you so much for your prayers during my recent retreat. It has been my practice for many years to take two private spiritual retreats each year, about three to four days in length. As an introvert, I thirst for this time alone in deep contemplation with God.

Last year, due to devoting all of my time off to welcoming Emerson and caring for his new moms, I didn't take any retreat time. Until I arrived and settled into my hermitage at Valle Crucis last week, I didn't realize how very much I needed it.

I have developed a schedule to guide the rhythms of a spiritual retreat—a schedule I share with my spiritual directees and others who seek to go on private retreat—which includes the Daily Offices, Scripture and other spiritual reading, prayer art, kinetic prayer or exercise, mindful eating, fasting (this retreat I fasted from meat and sugar), the Rosary each night before bed, and lots of centering prayer and journaling. I also fast from social media. It's an idyllic experience that deeply nourishes my soul, fortifying me as God reveals my current path ahead, a path that usually scares me a little.

If I were to characterize this retreat, I'd say it was one of surprise. I had a plan, a goal to accomplish over the week. My first evening there my goal was almost entirely completed (surprise!). As I watched the divinely inspired details of this goal pouring out onto "paper," I wondered what I might do for the rest of my week. Apparently, God had a plan too (surprise!), and I spent the rest of the week discovering and praying myself into that plan.

As always, time in spiritual retreat raises more questions than are answered and leads us to the start of a path, the details of which fade into unknowing requiring us to trust in God and God's plan for us and the world. The answers will come in time. They always do. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." ~Jesus (Jn 16:12)



Time in spiritual retreat reminds me in very manifest ways how intimately connected we are to all of God's beautiful creation. Nature has always had a prominent voice in my prayer life, and this retreat overflowed with gifts from creature siblings. Owl, a pair of Eastern Towhees, a pair of rabbits, doves, a trio of flies, a bear (in the distance, thank God!), mockingbirds, woodpecker, skunk (also a safe distance, tbtG), turkey vulture, dragonfly, the wind, rain, and swaying trees all contributed to opening my soul to hear the voice of God. The robin in the attached photo visited daily and, in this instance, stayed very close, looking at me for over 30 minutes while I (we?) prayed.

My experience with nature is much like my experience with the communion of saints. Both have been an active part of my prayer life since childhood. Whether a creature sibling or a saint, they are sojourning partners who bring particular gifts, which they share so generously in support of my (our) journey of faith. The saint who showed up this retreat was Joan of Arc (surprise!). I thought I knew her and frankly, don't often choose to connect with soldiers/warriors, but in order to discern the gift she brought, I read a variety of articles and hagiographies about her. What I read surprised and delighted me as my assumptions about her fell away. I thank her for her gifts and support.

You, my Saint David's family, were a very prominent part of my prayer during retreat. You have been in my daily prayer since my first contact with the interim search committee, and you will remain in my daily prayer for as long as I live, as do all of the church communities I've served.

The one thing that is no surprise is the real and loving presence of God who loves us and guides us so tenderly, so patiently. I thank you for your prayers and support and promise you mine as we walk together on this last leg of the interim path before us.

Valori +

## Our living website

By The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer

I encourage everyone to check in on our website regularly as it is a living document that updates continually. Especially check out the [Upcoming Events](#) page where you can download flyers to share with friends by email or print and post at local shops. Whether or not friends come to the worship on Sundays, they might be interested in coming to the book studies afterwards and other SEOL events we're doing.

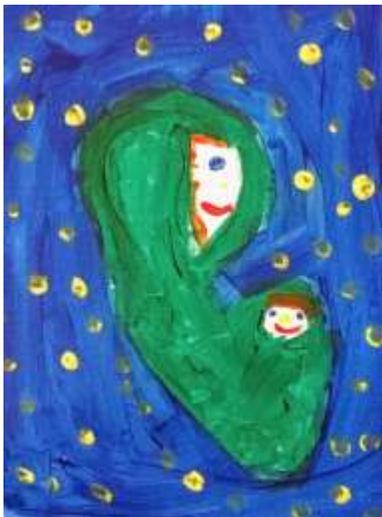
Please also check in on the new [Rector Search](#) page. Maggie keeps that page updated with the latest information and announcements about the search process. It's also an easy way to find and pray the prayer for our Discernment Committee members (by name) daily.

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## The Way of the Lord?

From your Senior Warden, Judy Robinson

My most recent experience with my granddaughter Lola has once again shown me that God invites us and nudges us in ways we may not expect. Our home is a pretty secular place. Oh, you'll find the Bible without looking too hard, a small cross above the porch door, and a small abstract clay madonna from a local potter that I like. Otherwise, I admit to wanting to be free of religious art.



Ron and I have a hallway wall with artwork from our adult children, produced when they were little. We have added grandchildren's art as they get old enough to do more than scribble. Recently, Ron found a poem written by his oldest son when he was 11 that was about his faith in Christ. It was framed and decorated, so, of course, I agreed to add it to the art wall. But I thought, darn, I do not want anyone to think they have entered some sort of an ultra evangelical home. My eight-year-old granddaughter Lola is with us for a few days on her own. She was determined to paint a picture that could make it up onto the art wall. Being a Catholic school girl, she produced a beautiful Icon of the Madonna with Child. It is going next to my step-son's poem as soon as I get it framed. The point being, that I have given over to God's desire of representations of himself/herself in our home.

One of my frequent prayers, honestly, is "God help my un-belief." I share this because it seems to relate to our current rector search. Those of you who know me know that I am opinionated and can be a "just so" person. In this search process, I am working hard to be open-minded, to let God lead the way, to work to hear what the Spirit is saying to us and among us as we move forward. I hope we can each have faith that our new rector is already moving towards us and will find his or her place with us where they belong. Like the Madonna, who clearly belongs on our wall.

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### Abraham's Table:

#### A family reunion

Join us as we relax, eat, play,  
and share time together as the children of Abraham:  
Jewish, Christian, and Muslim.

**Sunday, July 14**

**4:00 to 8:00 pm**

All are welcome as we celebrate our common roots  
and live as one in an era of political division.

### WCU Picnic Area

behind the softball field

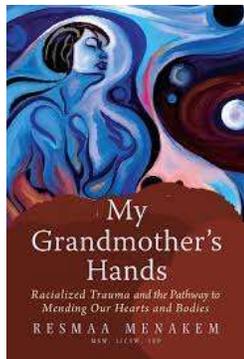
We invite you to bring a picnic lunch –  
enough for you and a bit extra.  
Bring your favorite picnic game(s), guitar  
or instrument for sing-a-longs!

Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> we will gather at the WCU picnic center for an Abrahamic family reunion picnic—time set aside for us to relax, eat, play, and just be together—deepening our relationships. BYO Picnic food, drinks, utensils, plus a little extra to share.

## Summer Reading Book Studies

Please join us for two book studies this summer and another in the fall. As usual, City Lights Bookstore will have copies available at a 10% discount; just let them know it is for the book study.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>:** *My Grandmother's Hands, Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem.

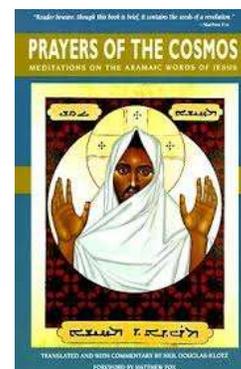


From the publisher: The body is where our instincts reside and where we fight, flee, or freeze, and it endures the trauma inflicted by the ills that plague society. In this groundbreaking work, therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of body-centered psychology. He argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies... *My Grandmother's Hands* is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide. [This book offers] a step-by-step solution—a healing process—in addition to incisive social commentary.

Join us after coffee hour in The Gathering Place. Bring a brown bag lunch in case there is no coffee hour sustenance.

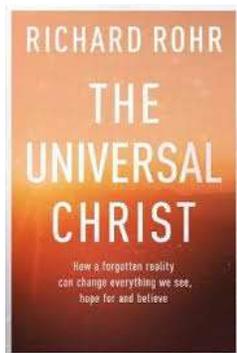
**August 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>:** *Prayers of the Cosmos, Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus's Words* by Neil Douglas-Klotz.

From the publisher: Neil Douglas-Klotz offers a radical new translation of the words of Jesus Christ...Reinterpreting the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes from the vantage of Middle Eastern mysticism, Douglas-Klotz... reveals a mystical, feminist, cosmic Christ. *Prayers of the Cosmos* is a spiritual revelation—and in the words of *Science of Mind*, “When you read this book, you will have no further doubt that God loves you infinitely and unconditionally.”



Join us after coffee hour in The Gathering Place. Bring a brown bag lunch in case there is no coffee hour sustenance.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>–??:** When we begin our fall program season, our book study will continue with *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. This book is meant to be read aloud and pondered in a slow integrative process. We will meet to read this book aloud together, taking the time the Spirit desires for us to contemplate and integrate it.



From the publisher: Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. “God loves things by becoming them,” he writes, “and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet.”

Thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, *The Universal Christ* is a landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is.” Join us after coffee hour in The Gathering Place. Bring a brown bag lunch in case there is no coffee hour sustenance.



Faye and Jake Jacobson hosted Marilyn Jody, Ron Robinson, June Smith, and Hank Sharp (sitting in for Judy Robinson who was traveling last week) for dinner at their home. Bosco kept an eye on everything.



John and Gracia Slater hosted the Wilcoxes, Kirwans, Bowles, and June Smith for lunch at their Flatrock cottage followed by a production of *South Pacific* at Flatrock Playhouse.

# Parish News & Notes

## Birthdays

- Jun 29 **Marilyn Jody**
- Jul 1 **Ann Suggs**
- Jul 4 **Elizabeth Frazier, Kendra Graham**

## Anniversary

- Jun 30 **Betsy Swift-Barb Manke**

Congratulations to Wesley Satterwhite who has accepted a position as Research and Development Grant Writer with the research team at Four Seasons Compassion for Life (Palliative and Hospice Care). She will complete requirements for her MLIS at the end of July and begin my new job in early August.

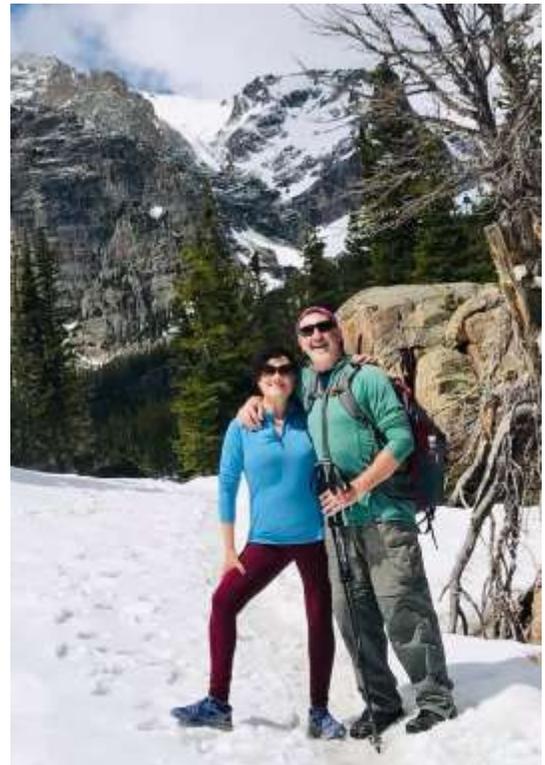
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## Summer Travels



The Despeaux family vacationed in the Rockies.

As did Jane and Andy Coburn.



Lydia Aydlett travelled to eastern North Carolina to celebrate a big birthday.





THE SWAIN ARTS CENTER IS  
PROUD TO PRESENT

# ERIC HENDRIX & FRIENDS

AND THE OPENING  
OF THE  
POSTCARDS FROM  
THE EDGE EXHIBIT

JULY 13, 2019  
7:00 P.M.  
TICKETS \$10 AT THE DOOR

The Swain Arts Center is located on the  
campus of Swain County High School  
1415 Fontana Road.



This program received support from the NC Arts Council, a division  
of the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding from the  
National Endowment for the Arts.

### **Meditation Opportunities at St. David's**

**Accessible Mindfulness: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 10-11:15 am.** This is especially geared for those new to mindfulness meditation.

### **Other Meditation Opportunities**

**WCU Mindfulness and Meditation:** Thursdays at 4 pm 224 Bird Building. For details, call 227-7469 and ask for Michelle. To view a flyer, [please click here.](#)

**Mindfulness Meditation: 9:15 am on Thursdays** at Sylva Yoga above Lulu's on Main Street in downtown Sylva. Meditation gives students the opportunity to focus on the deep interconnection between mind and body, which can be experienced directly by practice in mindfulness.

### **Virtual Closet**

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact Claire Marsh: [clairemrsh@gmail.com](mailto:clairemrsh@gmail.com) She keeps a list of who has what to facilitate sharing.

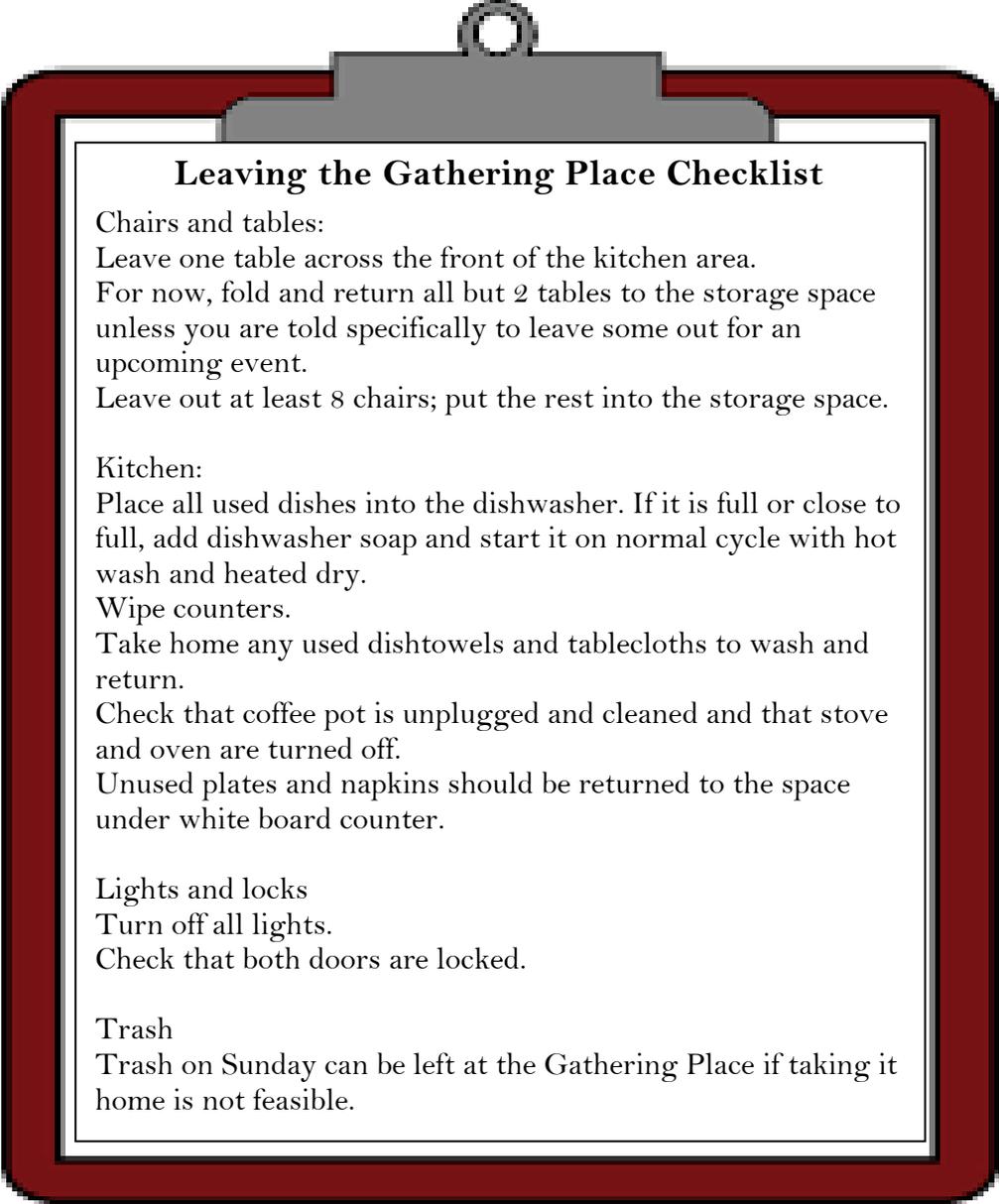
### **Box Tops for Education**

There is a basket under the white board in the Parish Hall where you can place any of these box tops you may have. This is an ongoing project for our children.

**Regular  
Activities**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 5:30 pm  
Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr  
Mondays 10:30 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays

Rice & Beans Ministry  
Taizé Service 5:30 pm  
Soup/Bread Community Supper  
Cullowhee Men's Group 10:30 am  
Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm  
Accessible Mindfulness 10 am



### Leaving the Gathering Place Checklist

#### Chairs and tables:

Leave one table across the front of the kitchen area.

For now, fold and return all but 2 tables to the storage space unless you are told specifically to leave some out for an upcoming event.

Leave out at least 8 chairs; put the rest into the storage space.

#### Kitchen:

Place all used dishes into the dishwasher. If it is full or close to full, add dishwasher soap and start it on normal cycle with hot wash and heated dry.

Wipe counters.

Take home any used dishtowels and tablecloths to wash and return.

Check that coffee pot is unplugged and cleaned and that stove and oven are turned off.

Unused plates and napkins should be returned to the space under white board counter.

#### Lights and locks

Turn off all lights.

Check that both doors are locked.

#### Trash

Trash on Sunday can be left at the Gathering Place if taking it home is not feasible.

### 2019 Outreach Support

From 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's loose plate offering and Soup Suppers  
Jan Circles of Hope Aug School Supplies drive  
Feb Clean Slate Sep Vecinos  
Mar Community Table Oct Midwives of Haiti  
Apr Mainspring Land Trust Nov to be determined  
May (general) Dec (general)  
May-Jun-Jul-Aug-no Soup Suppers (general outreach)

#### St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: [stdavidscullowhee.org](http://stdavidscullowhee.org)

[Lectionary Page 2019](#)

Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: [magbowles@gmail.com](mailto:magbowles@gmail.com)

Church phone # and email: 828-331-1427

[stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com)

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

#### Diocesan Links:

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

[Sign up for Diocesan Newsletter](#)

[Camp Henry Facebook page](#)

[www.lakelogan.org](http://www.lakelogan.org)

#### St. David's Vestry Members:

Judy Robinson, Senior Warden

Muff Lyons, Junior Warden

Sandy Frazier—Gael Graham

Vance Davidson—Jake Jacobson

### Vestry Stewardship Covenant 2018

#### St. David's Episcopal Church

We believe that our community is called upon to fully trust in God's promise to provide. Sometimes, however, we are fearful that it won't happen due to our lack of trust, our fear, and our need to control.

We commit to remember who we are in God and for the world, near and far: beloved servants. We commit to make financial decisions remembering that God provides for us, sometimes in surprising ways, by keeping the Gospel promise of abundance as our guide and touchstone, and by constantly evaluating this new way of thinking.

We invite everyone to join the vestry in reflecting on the grace and good luck that pervade our lives which leads us to a natural and comfortable means of sharing the abundance with which we have been blessed.