

## Wednesday Evening Lenten Series Soup & Bread & Conversation

March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

**Lent provides** us an opportunity to examine our hearts and the personal and communal resources for healthy spiritual practices. Join us for supper, if you are able.

**One rich resource**— as described through religious art, morality plays and literature, and church teaching from the Middle Ages—is *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Episcopalians hear about them in the Ash Wednesday service, (the "Litany of Penitence," **BCP** 267-269). Sin as a subject can be "touchy," and we might prefer to change the subject to God's love and mercy.

On our first night together, we'll draw on contemporaries Barbara Brown Taylor, Marcus Borg, and Ronald Rolheiser, as well as Bible stories, to introduce the subject. Why is it still important not to set aside the word and reality of sin?

In each of the following presentations, we'll reflect more upon some gracious alternatives to being held hostage: **Pride and Despair** (March 8), **Greed and Sloth** (March 15), **Envy and Wrath** (March 22), and **Gluttony and the Practice of Sabbath** (March 29).

**Presenters** include the Rev. David McNair, the Rev. Carol Jablonski, Mark Holland, and the Rev. Dn. Ty Jones.

**Come to one presentation or come to all of them. See old friends and make new ones!**

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## YELLOW

There is a heaven we enter through institutional grace and there are the yellow finches bathing and singing in the lowly puddle.

From **Evidence**.  
Copyright 2009 by Mary Oliver.

## Empowering Madison Youth to Succeed



Empowering Madison Youth to Succeed (**EMYS**) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working within the Madison County School (MCS) system. Founded in 1997, **EMYS** is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director.

The organization has three part-time tutor/mentor employees who work on a daily basis with Madison High School, Madison Early College High School, and Madison Middle School students. That program, named Madison Team Success, has seventy-five students enrolled currently.

The program's executive director coordinates Mars Hill University students and adult volunteers within the local school system. Many of these volunteers also work with elementary school students through the **Great Leaps** math program.

The **Great Leaps** program reinforces the classroom teacher's work with memorizing multiplication facts. Volunteers help students multiple times each week.

Each summer the Rotary Club of Madison County sponsors the **Jump Start Program** at Madison Middle School. **Jump Start** gives these new middle schoolers an exclusive day to tour their new school and become comfortable before officially attending their first day at Madison Middle.

The **Gear Up** grant sponsorship allows **EMYS** to coordinate the after school program at Madison middle school.

**EMYS** receives funding from the local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Madison County schools, and numerous businesses, individuals, and churches sharing the **EMYS** goal for all Madison County students to achieve successful outcomes. For additional information, visit the website: [emysnc.org](http://emysnc.org)

## March Birthdays

Douglas Peacock ... 3	Rod Vestal ..... 10	Ann Smith ..... 22
Julie Larson..... 5	Eleanor Kinsey.... 11	Genevieve Burda .. 24
Teresa Matthews .. 6	Beth Mangum .... 12	Mary Maupin .... 24
Brit Small-Øie ..... 6	Jim Woodruff..... 16	Peggy Wilson ..... 24
Kathleen Phillips ... 7	Daniel Trevor..... 19	Erika Schneider... 26
Dave Hollister..... 10	Connor Caskey... 21	Susan Peacock.... 31
Tom Moloney ..... 10	Shannon Dowler... 22	

## The March Calendar 2023

### 1 ~ **LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER**

Supper at 5:30pm. Program begins at 6:30pm: Introduction to the series.

4 ~ Sacred Ground takes place at 9:30am at Mars Hill Methodist Church

### 5 ~ **THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Men's breakfast at 8:00am

The First Sunday Open Offering for March will benefit EMYS (*Empowering Madison Youth to Succeed*) The EarthCare Team meets after the service

### 8 ~ **LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER**

Supper at 5:30pm. The program begins at 6:30pm:

#### ***Pride and Despair***

11 ~ Celebration of Life for William Sharp at ECHS at 3:00pm with reception to follow.

### 12 ~ **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

AED training offered after the service

### 15 ~ **LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER**

Supper at 5:30pm. Program begins at 6:30pm:

#### ***Greed and Sloth***

16 ~ La Esperanza luncheon at Mars Hill Baptist Church (*details to come*)

18 ~ ECHS Women's Group at 10:00am (coffee with chat). Program begins at 10:30am and lasts until noon.

### 19 ~ **THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

21 ~ Vestry meeting at 4:30pm

### 22 ~ **LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER**

Supper at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30pm:

#### ***Envy and Wrath***

25 ~ La Esperanza Youth Retreat (time TBA)

### 26 ~ **THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Adult Formation Committee meeting after the service at 12:15pm

28 ~ Living Gifts Fund Board meeting at 10:00am

### 29 ~ **LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER**

Supper at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30pm:

#### ***Gluttony and Practicing Sabbath***

(FYI, the calendar on the new website is now updated in real time if you ever need to check on something)

## Regular Weekly Activities

### **EVERY MONDAY~**

Low impact dance fitness at Mars Hill Baptist Church: 5:00pm  
(free – all are welcome!)

### **EVERY WEDNESDAY ~**

Centering Prayer in-person  
and via Zoom: 10:00am

### **EVERY THURSDAY~**

Low impact dance fitness at ECHS:  
9:30am

English as a Second Language  
class at ECHS: 5:00pm

### **EVERY SUNDAY ~**

Holy Eucharist at ECHS and  
live-streamed at 10:30am

Print this page so you can read it without hurting your neck!

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE MARCH 5, 2023 to APRIL 2, 2022

Date:	March 5, 2023	March 12, 2023	March 19, 2023	March 26, 2023	April 2, 2023
<b>Vestry</b>	Mark Holland	Mike Robinson	Peggy Wilson	Kathleen Phillips	Amanda Hilty
<b>Acolyte</b>	Gail Kase	Amanda Hilty	Ann Smith	Jennifer Reda	Peggy Wilson
<b>Offertory Musician</b>	Jennifer Reda	The Haagas	Rebekah Wilson	Bobbie Pell	Jan Mallindine
<b>First Reader</b>	Ingrid Diederer	Michael Smith	Bendik Clark	Margie Haaga	Pam McNally
<b>Second Reader</b>	Mark Holland	Gail Kase	Ruth Van Sickle	Claire Gillespie	Beth Mallindine
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Pam McNally	Barbara Schauer	Dick Jordan	Nancy Larkin	Ronnie Jordan
<b>Greeter</b>	Rod Vestal	Harold Toney	Ruth Van Sickle	Ann Smith	Peggy Barnes
<b>Ushers</b>	Teresa Matthews Marnie Wilson	Peggy Barnes Bendik Clark	Susan Sherard Rod Vestal	Bryan White Adam Reda	Dick Jordan Ronnie Jordan
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	TBD	TBD	Tom Panek	Peggy Barnes	Lorraine Hilty
<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>	Ann Shiver Genevieve Burda	Christine & Benton Hester	Peggy Wilson	Brian & Susan Murphy	Lynn Michie
<b>Sunday Cleanup</b>	Rod Vestal	The Murphy's	The Jordans	Lynn Michie	Lorraine Hilty
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Colleen Boll	Ginny Koranek	The Smiths	Peggy Wilson	Jennifer Reda
<b>Bulletin Folder</b>	The Jordans	Ruth Van Sickle	Mary Jo Sparrow	Linda Ballard	Mary Maupin
<b>Healing Prayer</b>	Nancy Larkin	Ann Smith	Margie Haaga	Barbara Schauer	Bobbie Pell
<b>Camera</b>	Teresa Matthews	Barbara Schauer	Jim Haaga	Teresa Matthews	Barbara Schauer
<b>Nursery</b>	Lynn Michie	Claire Gillespie	Nancy Whitaker	Christine Hester	Susan Sewell
<b>Supply Stocker</b>	Pam McNally	Ann Shiver	Ann Shiver	Ann Shiver	Ann Shiver
<b>Trash</b>	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	Rod Vestal	John Doran
<b>Sunday Driver</b>	Harold Toney	Mary Jo Sparrow	Dick Jordan	Mary Maupin	Harold Toney

## People Talk from 2011

### B.J. Hill and Marbeth Holmes

#### *The Ties That Bind*

*by Lin Von Dreele*

**B. J. Hill** entered our lives through the Prison Ministry. During his years at Holy Spirit, parishioners came to know him as a thoughtful, perceptive, caring, and very wise man, garnered from years of hard work and introspection and, through God's grace, resulting in a life of joy and productivity. When asked recently if he would share some of the major events in his life since leaving Madison County, he was pleased to reconnect with his friends back in the mountains and "tell them how good life is."

### Getting to the Present Time ...

Lin von Dreele recently contacted B.J. to see how he and Marbeth are faring these days. Is life still "good" for them? Turns out it is! B.J. sent the following update.



*This photo of B.J. and Marbeth dates back to 2010. They are happily displaying their marriage certificate.*

### B. J. Hill's Update

Post-incarceration life continues to be mostly fulfilling and happy. My time with the Holy Spirit prison group taught me a side of humanity about others and myself, which continues to serve me well over the years. So many seeds of unconditional love were sown by the many great people I met during that time. Whenever I am reminded of how far I've come in life, I acknowledge that I am part of a legacy of great helpers who exemplified characteristics which I try to practice today. I want to send love and gratitude to everyone for whatever role they had in this.

Since our previous communication through the newsletter, my beautiful bride Marbeth and I have been active in opportunities that have been transformative personally, professionally, and in our togetherness.

In 2014 she graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with her master's degree in social work (MSW). She also earned accompanying licensures that further her ability to serve marginalized groups in her service area. Seeing the powerful experience of this process in her life spurred me to want to gain more knowledge and training in human service. I graduated from Walden University's online MSW program in 2021 and currently am engaged in the licensure processes which will allow me to serve others in less restrictive ways.

*(B.J.'s story continued on page 7)*

## Slow Me Down Lord

—Janice Deardorff

Slow me down Lord, bring me back to You.  
I want to reflect Your love and joy  
In all that I do.

It's one of those mornings and I'm rushing around  
Trying to tie up the loose ends.  
Your voice beckons me, "Come and stay for awhile  
Remember we're meant to be friends."

I have a list of things to do a mile long  
I don't have time to pray or sing some song.  
But then I hear You come and quietly say  
"Don't let those details push me away."

I need to breathe deep of the beauty around me  
And let who You are come again to astound me.  
My spirit is crying, "Renew me within.  
It's time to start living again."

So I pray -  
Slow me down Lord, bring me back to You.  
I want to reflect Your love and joy  
In all that I do.

=====

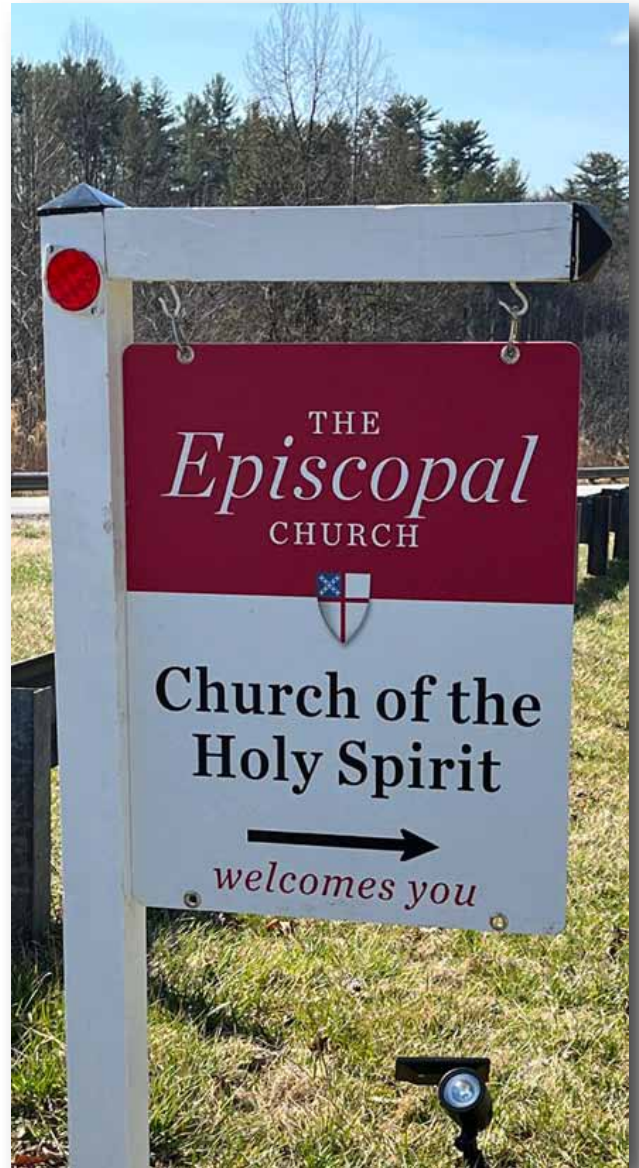
*Our thanks to Kathleen Phillips,  
who submitted this poem.  
(She also submitted "Yellow" on page 1.)*

### Source:

**Songs**; compiled by Yohann Anderson;  
Publisher, Songs and Creations, Inc.; ©1988.

(This songbook was one source of hymns  
in the early life of the **Episcopal Church  
of the Holy Spirit**, Mars Hill, NC.)

## Look What's Up!



## MAKING ITS APPEARANCE Is Our New Sign!

On February 22 it went up where Bone Camp Road meets the highway. It's an attractive sign with a design that does make me hungry for soup. Our thanks to Peggy Wilson for all her work making arrangements.

## B. J. Hill's Update

(Continued from page 5)

My current position is Co-Occurring Disorder Specialist with an assertive community treatment team (ACTT) that serves individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness in a rural four-county area. I'm one of the team clinicians who does one-on-one, and group, therapeutic interventions with our people who experience substance use disorder, and other addictions, in addition to mental illness. Many of our people are acutely symptomatic.

This vocation provides such a privileged glimpse into humanity, and I am so grateful to be trusted by these beautiful souls who help me see things that really matter in the time I have on this earth.

I recently celebrated twenty-five years of long-term addiction and mental health recovery. I am active in the 12-step community, and the longer I live clean, sober and sane, the more I realize how much I need help. I cherish this humbling gift and am encouraged to continue practicing these principles in all my affairs.

One of the developments I am most proud of is my outlook and attitudes on race and social justice issues. After seeing the harsh realities of racist systemic policies and practices that continue to negatively impact people of color and poor people, I engaged in a process much like 12-step recovery that suggests honest and open-minded self-examination.

I try to practice daily action which will create a holistic change within my being and hopefully will extend into any community I am engaged with.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this brief overview of the great, wonderful life I get to live today. I remain in contact with John Duran and Mark Greenwood, who both serve as great resources of support and understanding.

Let me conclude this by extending ongoing love and gratitude to my Holy Spirit family.

## A Hearty Review

On Sunday, March 12, following the church service, Carol VanVoorhis and Ann Smith will teach a quick update on the use of the **AED** (Automated External Defibrillator).

Holy Spirit Church has an **AED** located on the wall next to the bookcases holding the hymnals, just outside the sanctuary.

This class will consist of a brief overview of the steps involved in using the AED, in the event that a church member or visitor suffer from a cardiac event.

The class will be held in the Community Room.