

The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 23, 2017

Bishop's follow-up letter on Charlottesville

Bishop José sent this letter out this morning (August 23):

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week I wrote a [letter](#) in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Charlottesville.

I want to be clear that as Christians, we must meet everyone with the love of Christ in our hearts -- no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin. We are all God's children. Likewise, the ideologies espoused by any hate group, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists, are the antithesis of the teachings of Jesus.

But I want to do more than just make pronouncements. In the past, I've watched many times as our leaders spoke out against overt and systemic racism, bigotry and oppression. Too often, their good words were not followed by concrete actions. Now that I am in a position to make these statements myself, I hold myself accountable to initiate a collaborative process for moving forward.

[READ THE FULL LETTER HERE](#)

Diocesan office closed for retreat

The Diocesan Office will be closed Thursday, August 24 through Friday, August 25 for staff retreat. If you have a pastoral emergency, please [contact Canon Augusta Anderson](#).

Bishop Road Tour visits St. Paul's, Morganton

By Gerald Ashby, St. Paul's:

On Sunday August 20, St. Paul's Lake James, Morganton was blessed with a visit from Bishop José. Our congregation and visitors got to know more about Bishop José and his passion for people, Christ and the diocese, and how St. Paul's can be part of that

passion.

Through worship and singing and a meal at the Fitzgerald Parish Hall, everyone showed Bishop José a taste of St. Paul's hospitality. We then had a chance to ask our bishop questions directly.

Thanks to all who make the "Bishop Road Show" possible, and thanks to the time and mileage that Bishop José took to be with our congregation.



Recovery Eucharist

- Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville



Tuesday, September 12 is the Third Annual All Diocesan Recovery Eucharist. Everyone is welcome. Bishop José will preach and celebrate.

Elements of the service are drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and the 12 Step readings.

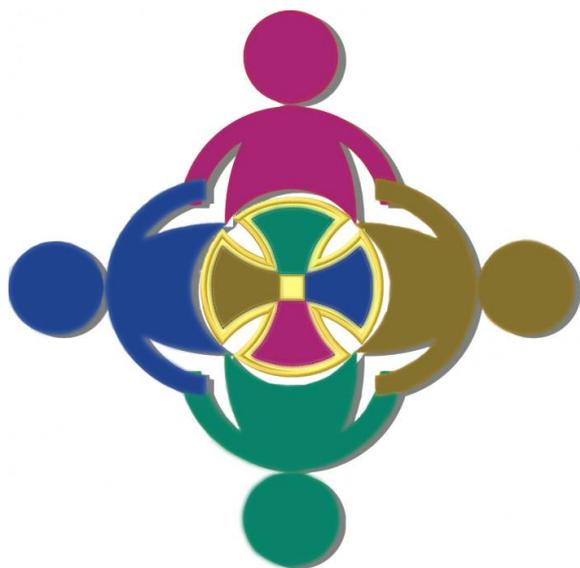
Ordination of Jonathan Stepp to the Sacred Order of Deacons

- Saturday, September 9 at 11 a.m.
- St. James Episcopal Church, Hendersonville

Join us for the Ordination of Jonathan Leon Stepp to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: Red Stoles. Reception following.

Convention 2017: Register, Nominate!



The 96th annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina will take place November 10-11 at Kanuga Conference Center.

For the full details, including registration, nominations, and more, visit the [Convention page of our website](#).

St. James starts Tail Light Program

Something as simple as a burned-out tail light in your car can become a dangerous safety issue. St. James, Black Mountain has created a program called "T is for Tail Lights" that helps ensure people are aware of, and can easily fix, a broken tail light.

The program started after Philando Castile was shot and killed by a Minnesota police officer. What began as a routine traffic stop escalated into a fatal tragedy. Arch Deacon Kristi Neal preached the following Sunday about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Deacon Neal pointed out that in the parable, all the passersby were sympathetic to the situation, but only the Samaritan took action. She asked for each member of the congregation to find some form of action to address the senseless killings.

Ron Rios, one of the program's leaders shared, "While there are more complex issues to be addressed in Mr. Castile's death, we felt the need to create a program in our community that can help people in a simple, concrete way." St. James teamed with local merchants to minimize the potential for anyone to be in violation of the law for a burned out tail light in Black Mountain. The program provides a coupon for free tail light bulb replacement. In addition, a mirror was installed at a main street auto parts store so drivers can check their own tail lights. Last, the "T" hand signal (like calling for

a time out in sports) is being used as a way to communicate to another driver that they have a burned out tail light. A grant from the Justice and Outreach diocesan committee was used to advertise the program in the local paper, and several coupons have been redeemed. "Hopefully this is one way in which we can make a difference in our community," said Rios.

Resource of the Week: Planning for Christian Formation



Soon the rhythm of our church communities will move into a new season of programs. We have used lots of vocabulary over the years to describe our programs: Sunday School, Christian Formation, Faith Formation, Bible Study, Adult Formation, and more. The bottom line, regardless of age, is that they are all about a complex mix of information, story sharing, responding to what we have heard, and holding on to the parts that have stuck out for us. What each person needs from a particular passage of scripture or personal story will be unique to them in their context.

Here are three questions to consider as you polish your plans:

- What do you want your children to treasure about being part of your faith community?
- How do you facilitate the intersection of the wisdom of elders with the wonder of children?
- What would you like to share about how your faith shapes your life?

The Practical Resources for Churches [web site](#) has an excellent library of webinars. Look in the Recorded Webinars tab for topics that intrigue you and might help your program development. The most recent one, *Let's Kill Sunday School (before it kills the church)* is particularly thought provoking as we look at our needs and our plans; find it under Children's Ministry. Dorothy Linthicum leads a wonderful one, *Spirituality After 70*, in the Adult Ministry section. I encourage you to browse around.

Two other web sites to check out are <http://www.faith5.org/> and <http://www.richlearning.com/>. Both offer interesting tips and insights to chew on.

[Visit the Center for Spiritual Resources on Facebook](#) for more resource suggestions and articles for your lifelong learning journey.

This resource was brought to you by Elizabeth Ring of the Center for Spiritual Resources.



Center for Spiritual Resources

CONNECT • ENGAGE • TRANSFORM

An initiative of the Cathedral of All Souls and the Episcopal Diocese of Western NC

Diocesan Events

Celebrating Good Works: A Dinner and Silent Auction Celebrating Church of the Advocate's 20th Anniversary

- September 21 at 5 p.m.
- Tuton Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Church of the Advocate's event this year is special; it's COA'S 20th anniversary. In honor of that, they're adding appetizers and desserts to the dinner menu prepared and donated by Travinia. There will be music provided by Rhoda Weaver, and a variety of great items to bid on. And remember, all the proceeds go to support COA's important work with the Asheville's chronically homeless. So won't you join us?

For more information, call 828-253-9361 ext. 227.

Relying on More than Words -- a silent retreat

- September 22 - 24, 2017
- Lutheridge Retreat Center , 28 Spruce Dr., Arden, NC 28704

"Love silence above all things, because it brings you close to fruit that the tongue cannot express." -- Abba Isaac the Syrian

In the daily pace of life, our ever-present devices, the 24/7 news cycle, and the push-pull of our responsibilities, we are easily drawn into distraction and anxiety. Yet, we feel the desire to hold to some center, speak from the heart with clarity, and follow in the way of peace. You are invited to join others in a weekend of silence in which we let go of our over-dependence on information in exchange for an open spirit that can hear more than words and speak in ways that transcend our anxiety and personal

information. Purity of spirit is a riverbed that, in humility, makes space for the living water of God's Spirit to flow through us to others. In silence we listen for and remain open to the presence of the Holy One; it is where we learn to rely on more than words.

Our setting is the Lutheridge Retreat Center outside Asheville, NC. Each person will have a single room with private bathroom. Handicap accessible rooms available. Go to <http://www.uniquevenues.com/Lutheridge> to learn more. We will be staying in Kohnjoy Inn. Our guides for the weekend are David Keller and Emily Wilmer, co-stewards of Oasis of Wisdom, An Institute for Contemplative Studies, Practice and Living. You can learn more about David and Emily at <http://oasisofwisdom.net/>. Participation limited to 15 attendees

Cost: \$300.00 (Non-refundable deposit of \$100.00). Questions or more information contact Emily at emily@oasisofwisdom.net or 828.319.7240

"Beginning in the Middle" invites youth in grades 6-8 to Valle Crucis

- September 29 through October 1
- Valle Crucis Conference Center



MidBEGINNINGdle (Beginning in the Middle) is a unique retreat designed to respond to the spiritual issues, concerns, and needs of youth in grades 6-8.

MidBEGINNINGdle is held once a year at Valle Crucis Conference Center. The retreat begins with check-in on Friday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m. and concludes with Eucharist and lunch on October 1 at 1 p.m. (Family and friends are encouraged to attend).

Talks are given by high school youth, clergy, and adults. Singing, skits, and small group discussions are also important when dealing with issues such as *Who is Jesus?*, *Peer Pressure*, *Parents*, *Prayer*, and *the Church*. Other activities include a service project, crafts, field games, hikes, and an open mic extravaganza.

[REGISTER ONLINE NOW](#)

Fall Family Fun Fest at Lake Logan

- Saturday, September 30, 2017
- 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Lake Logan Conference Center

Plans are under way for a Family Fall Fest and Community Yard Sale sponsored by Lake Logan Conference Center and Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation. The event will take place on Saturday, September 30 from 8 AM to 1 PM at Lake Logan with fun for the whole family!

Praying, Contemplating, and Healing with Beads

- Thursday, October 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Lake Logan Conference Center
- With Kristen E. Vincent and Max O. Vincent



A full day workshop exploring the history and art of using beads in prayer. Authors of: *Praying with Beads*, *Another Bead-Another Prayer*, as well as *A String and a Prayer*.

For more information and to register:

<http://www.lakelogan.org/special-events/2017/10/12/kristen-and-max-o-vincent>

Sacred Revolution with Diana Butler Bass and John Dominic Crossan

music by Fran McKendree and the AwakeningSoul Ensemble

- November 9-12, 2017
- Lutheridge Conference Center, Asheville, NC

Each fall, AwakeningSoul hosts a four-day retreat, away from busy life, offering a time of sanctuary, sustenance, and inspiration. Within the Christian household, AwakeningSoul welcomes and celebrates all people wherever they are on their journey.

AwakeningSoul is more than a series of lectures. It is an invitation to participate as together we weave art, music, worship, nature, community meals, intentional conversation, and silent reflection into a "whole" experience. No single element makes the event.

This year's gathering is a call to a participate in a Sacred Revolution - daring to understand and live the stories of our heritage in a new way, revitalizing our relationship with God and our world while challenging us to seek an alternative for our violence addicted culture. This is the work of a theological revolution.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Thanksgiving at Lake Logan

- November 22 through November 25
- Lake Logan Conference Center



Eat, drink, and be thankful at Lake Logan this year! Join us for feast, family, fellowship, football, and fun. You don't have to cook, clean, or entertain. That's certainly something to be thankful for! Day and overnight options are available.

For more information and to register:

<http://www.lakelogan.org/special-events/2017/11/22/thanksgiving-at-lake-logan>



Want to contact someone at the diocese? See our staff listing [here](#).

Episcopal Diocese of WNC | (828) 225-6656 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

