

Bryson City Presbyterian Church
PO Box 549, 311 Everett Street, Bryson City, NC 28713

Pastor: Terry Hanna
Music Minister: Rachel Lackey
Adm Assistant: Lori Anderson
Nursery: Josie Parker
Custodian: Renee Mercer

September 2018

From My Heart to Yours....

God Is Here

It is hard to believe that summer is over. I blinked and the summer season with its activities- vacation and youth mission trips and picnics and a more relaxed schedule- was gone! Now a new season with school starting and Swain football on Friday nights and fall festivals is here. I can see pumpkins growing in the fields and corn being harvested. I switch out the clothes in my closet and put away shorts to add jeans and sweaters. I anticipate the change in colors from green to red, orange and gold. And I think "apple butter" as I look forward to the apples being picked. Each season has its gifts, and I find comfort in the order of creation.

Howard Thurman, African American theologian and writer, found comfort in the order of creation. In a difficult season in our nation's history, Howard took comfort in a tree! As a young boy he developed a unique relationship with a great oak tree in his backyard. Though storm and wind snapped its branches, the tree stood tall and gave strength to a young boy in the process. Thurman wrote, "I could sit with my back against its trunk and feel peace... I could talk aloud to the oak tree and know that I was understood. It, too, was a part of my reality, like the woods, the night, and the pounding surf, my earliest companions, giving me space."*

Like Howard Thurman, I find comfort in the order of creation. Nature reveals God to me. As the seasons change I notice the change in the seasons of my own life. I am getting older. What's important becomes clearer. I realize that all things have their beginning and ending in God's love. God has the whole world in his hands- from the itty-bitty baby to the swirling galaxies to all our brothers and sisters. We are all connected to one another. God is the first and last, our beginning and end, and our companion every step of the way. God is here. Any moment can become a window that reveals God to us.

As I look out my window in the early morning light, I see my neighbor's big oak tree. And I offer up a prayer from the words of Ephesians 3: 17: "that we may be rooted and grounded in love." I pray that like a tree, may our roots grow deep in order to be nourished by God's love. May our branches spread wide in order to embrace others, and may we find comfort, as seasons change, knowing God is here in any season. Amen.

*The Mystic In You, by Bruce G. Epperly, Chapter 9, Howard Thurman, Contemplation & Action, p. 103

Pastor Terry



***Rally Day!* Sunday, September 9th**

Discipleship Opportunities

Adults - Biblical History (Genesis) - Meet in the Hut @10 am

Youth - Middle School/High School - L in C - Meet in the Youth Lounge @ 10 am

Elementary School - At Home With God - Meet in the Elementary Room @ 10 am



Swain County United Gift Fund

Kickoff Luncheon - Sunday, September 9th 12:00 - 1:30 pm
BCPC Fellowship Hall - Tickets \$10

September 2018

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TUE

WED

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FRI

SAT

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|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Rhydon Atzenhoffer Patti Griffith | 3 Mark & Terry Hanna (A) | 4 | 5 11:00 Bible Study | 6 8 am Men's Breakfast Bill & Kyle Colley (A) | 7 | 8 |
| 9 UGF Kickoff Luncheon Drew Campbell Jim Sherrard Ron Thurman | 10 Dawn Letterman Judy Shepherd | 11 | 12 11:00 Bible Study | 13 8 am Men's Breakfast 1 pm Lois Circle | 14 Mark Hanna | 15 Maddie Stevenson |
| 16 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship | 17 Harold Lorentson | 18 | 19 11:00 Bible Study | 20 8 am Men's Breakfast Duane & Pat Keough (A) Greg Salyer | 21 | 22 |
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| 23 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship | 24 | 25 Brandi Helma Patti Robison | 26 11:00 Bible Study | 27 8am Men's Breakfast Tracy Folger | 28 Richard Shepherd | 29 |
| 30 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Brandi Helma Patti Robison | 1 Beverly Moon | 2 Cathy Evans Jane Harrison | 3 11:00 Bible Study | 4 8 am Men's Breakfast | 5 Sue Jordan | 6 Collin Caldwell |



Our Church Family Retreat 2018

